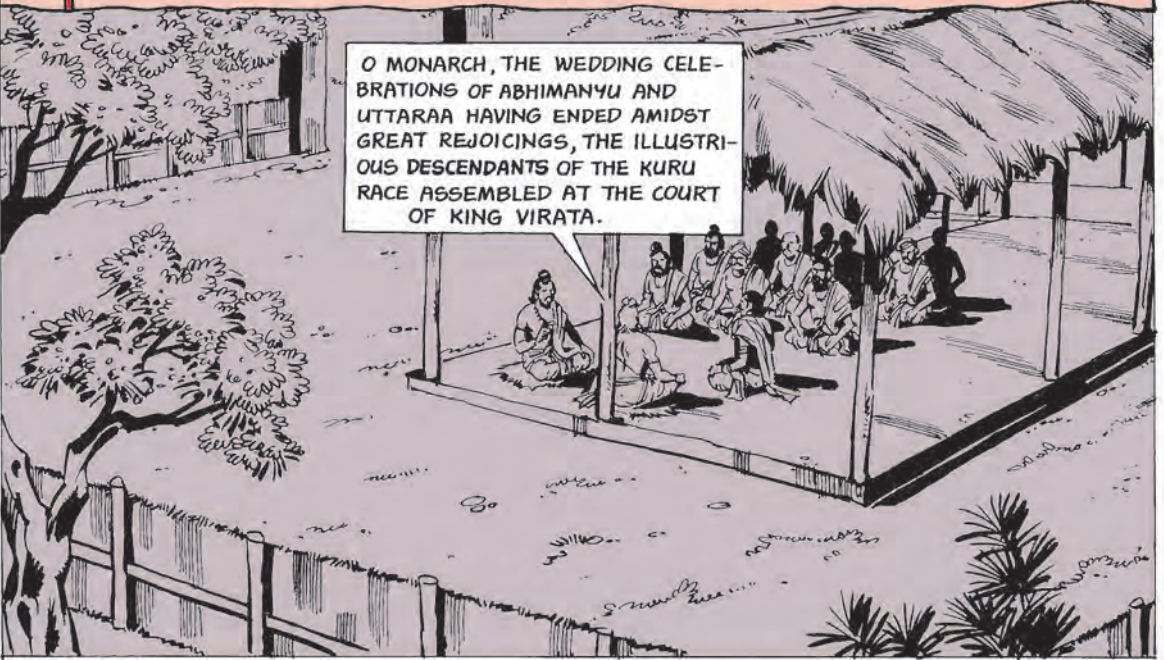


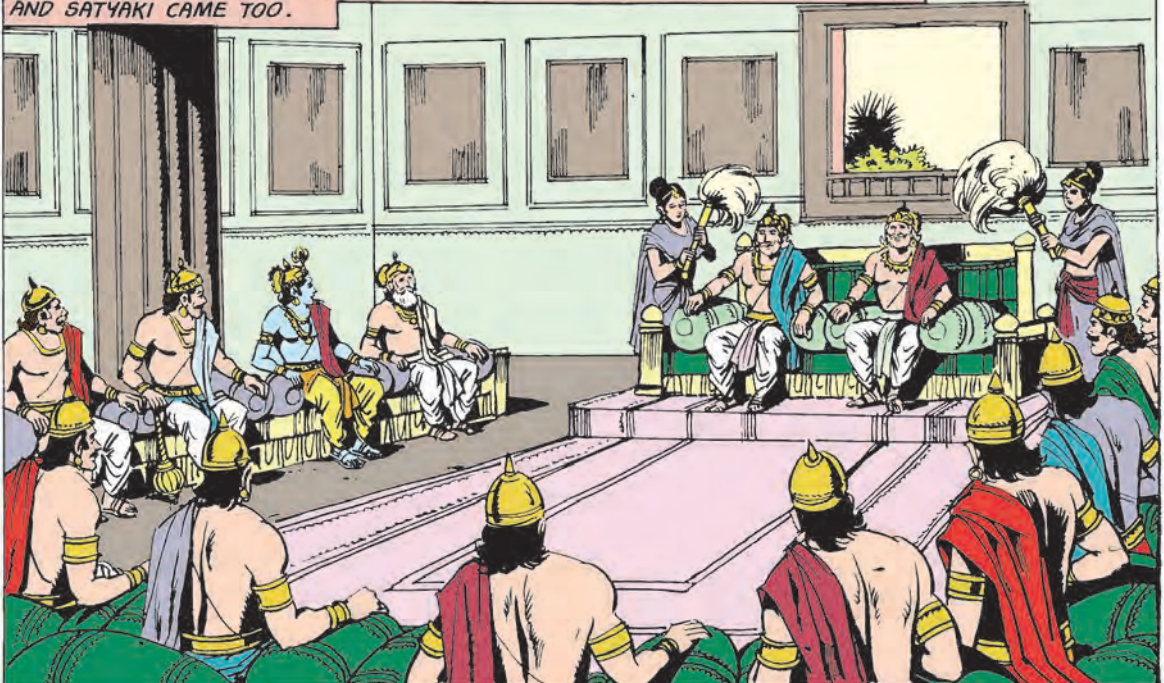
# Mahabharata - 27

## SANJAYA'S MISSION

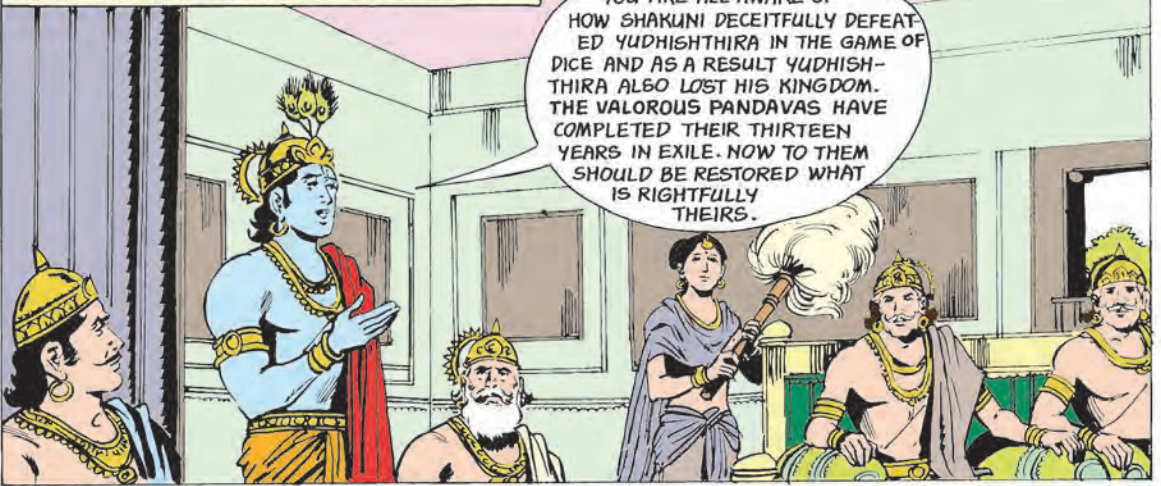
O MONARCH, THE WEDDING CELEBRATIONS OF ABHIMANYU AND UTTARAA HAVING ENDED AMIDST GREAT REJOICINGS, THE ILLUSTRIOUS DESCENDANTS OF THE KURU RACE ASSEMBLED AT THE COURT OF KING VIRATA.



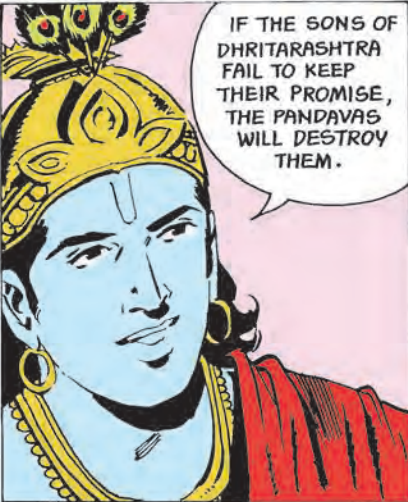
"THE ASSEMBLY AMONG OTHERS, CONSISTED OF THE FIVE GREAT PANDAVAS. VIRATA AND DRUPADA OCCUPIED SEATS OF HONOUR. THE REVERED KRISHNA AND BALARAMA CAME ALONG WITH THEIR FATHER. AND THE SONS OF DRAUPADI AND SATYAKI CAME TOO."



"FIRST KRISHNA ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLY."



YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF HOW SHAKUNI DECEITFULLY DEFEATED YUDHISHTHIRA IN THE GAME OF DICE AND AS A RESULT YUDHISHTHIRA ALSO LOST HIS KINGDOM. THE VALOROUS PANDAVAS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR THIRTEEN YEARS IN EXILE. NOW TO THEM SHOULD BE RESTORED WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS.

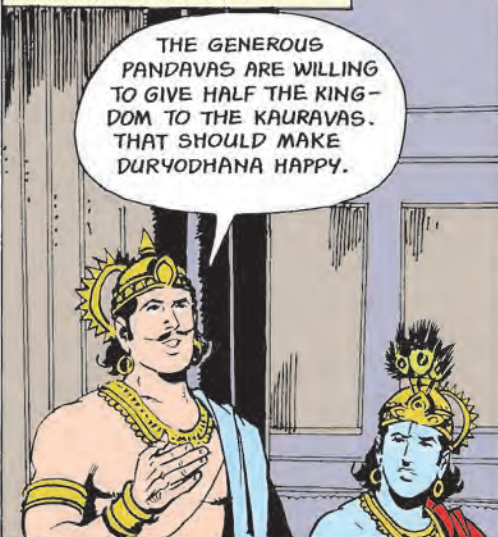


IF THE SONS OF DHRITARASHTRA FAIL TO KEEP THEIR PROMISE, THE PANDAVAS WILL DESTROY THEM.



I SUGGEST WE SEND A WISE AND VIRTUOUS MAN AS OUR AMBASSADOR TO PERSUADE DURYODHANA TO GIVE HALF HIS KINGDOM TO YUDHISHTHIRA.

"BALARAMA THEN SPOKE —



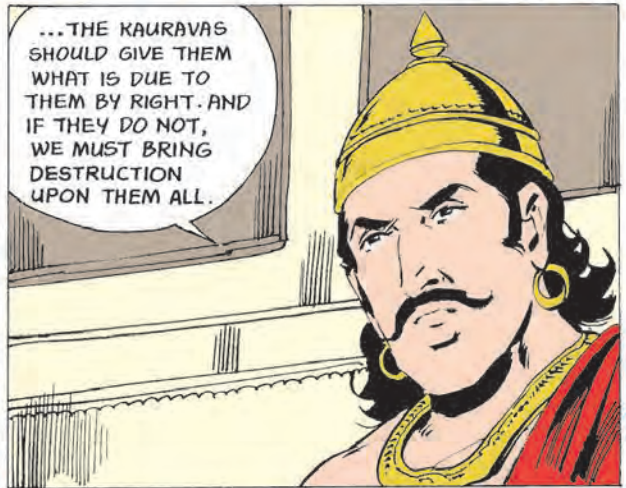
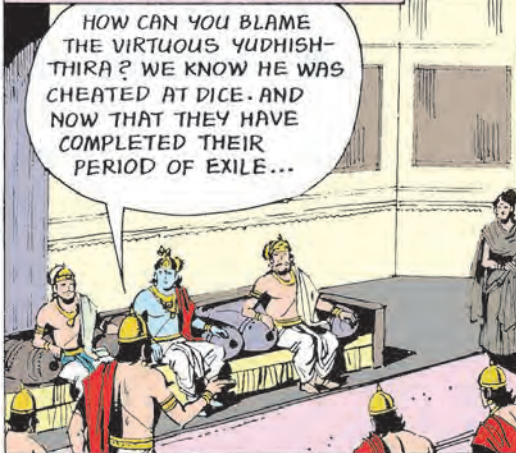
THE GENEROUS PANDAVAS ARE WILLING TO GIVE HALF THE KINGDOM TO THE KAURAVAS. THAT SHOULD MAKE DURYODHANA HAPPY.



SO LET SOME EMISSARY GO TO HIM AND CONVEY YUDHISHTHIRA'S DECISION. BUT DURYODHANA SHOULD NOT BE PROVOKED. AFTER ALL YUDHISHTHIRA IS ALSO TO BLAME...

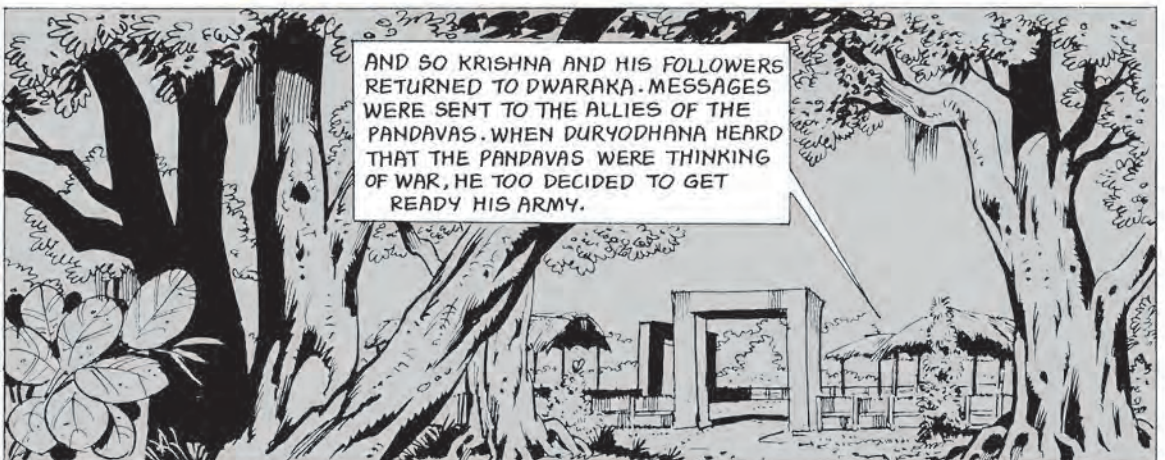


"BALARAMA'S WORDS IRKED SATYAKI.

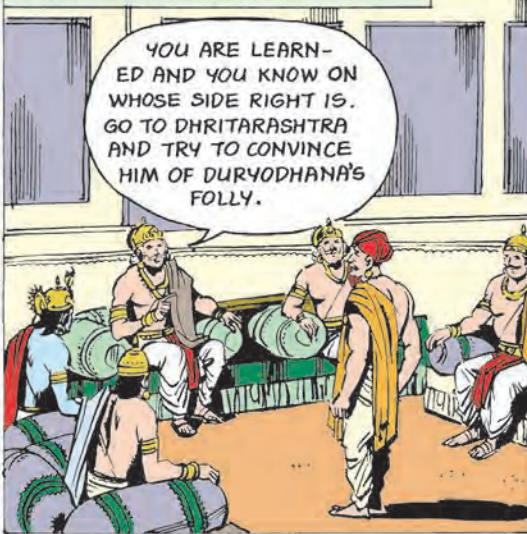


"DRUPADA THEN SPOKE —

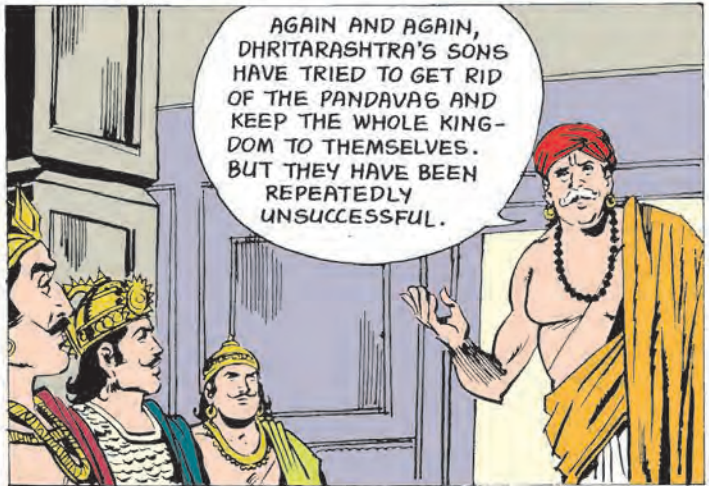
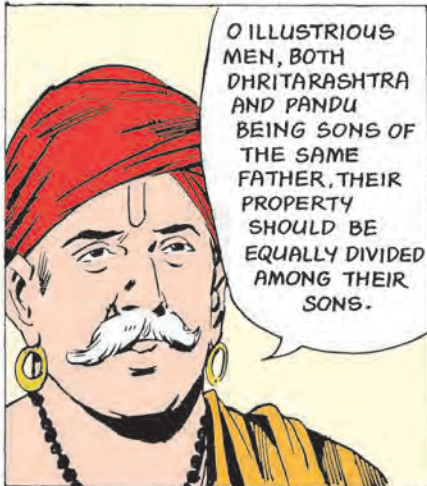


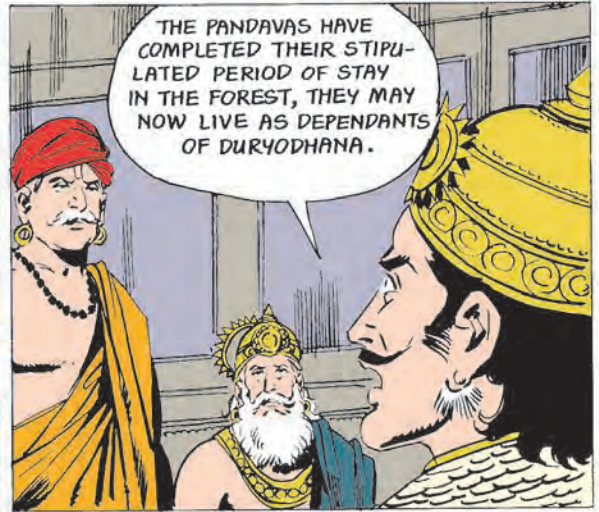
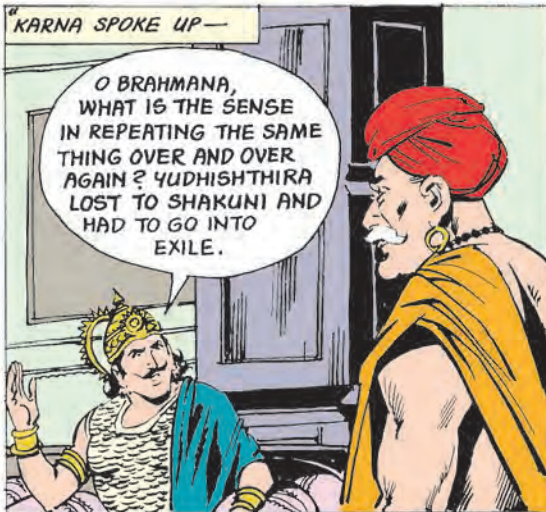
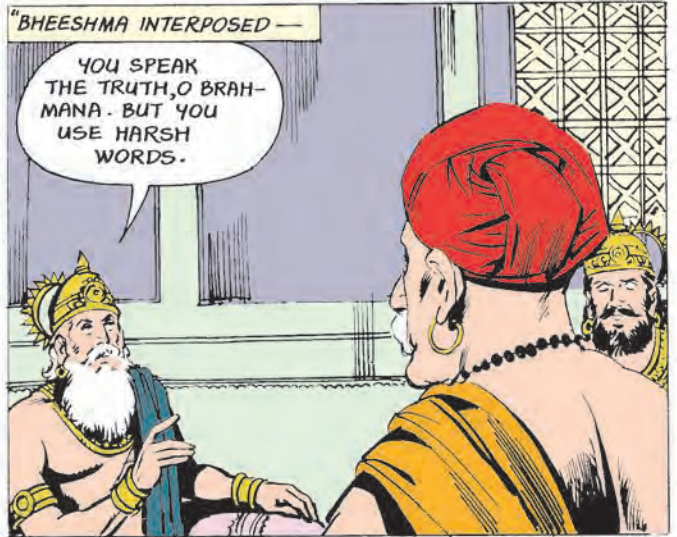
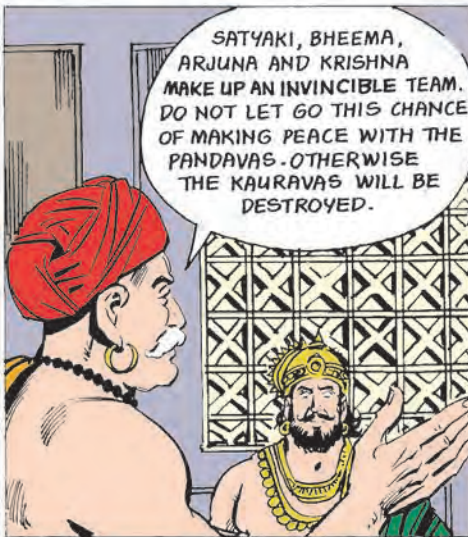


"DRUPADA SUMMONED HIS PRIEST —



"AND SO, ON REACHING HASTINAPURA, DRUPADA'S PRIEST APPROACHED THE KAURAVA ELDERS.





"BHEESHMA CAUTIONED—



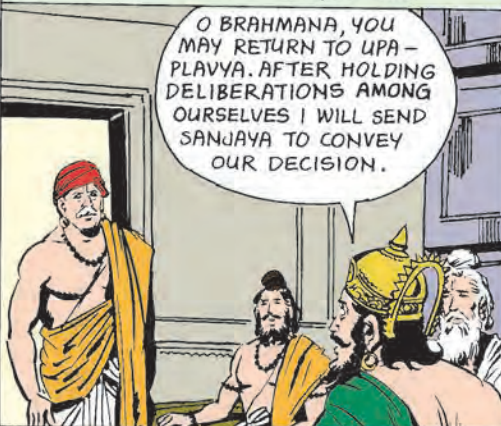
KARNA, YOU HAVE SEEN ARJUNA'S PROGRESS IN BATTLE. IF WE DO NOT MAKE PEACE, WE WILL ALL BE SLAIN.

"DHRTARASHTRA SAID—



BHEESHMA IS RIGHT. FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE WORLD, THERE SHOULD BE NO WAR.

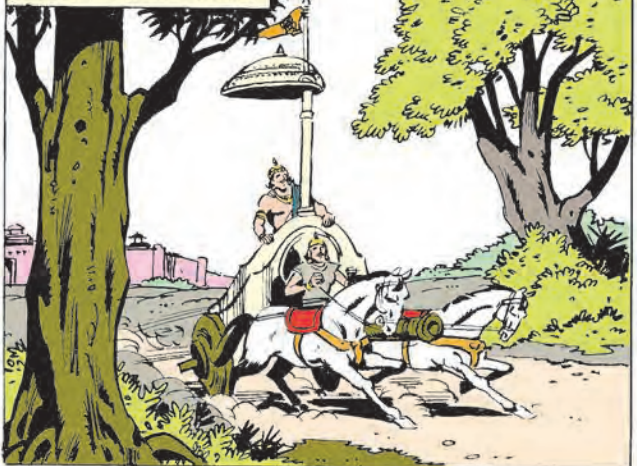
"TURNING TO THE BRAHMANA, HE SAID—



O BRAHMANA, YOU MAY RETURN TO UPAPLAYA. AFTER HOLDING DELIBERATIONS AMONG OURSELVES I WILL SEND SANJAYA TO CONVEY OUR DECISION.

"SOON AFTERWARDS THE BRAHMANA LEFT FOR UPAPLAYA.

"MEANWHILE ARJUNA SET OUT FOR DWARAKA TO SEEK KRISHNA'S HELP.



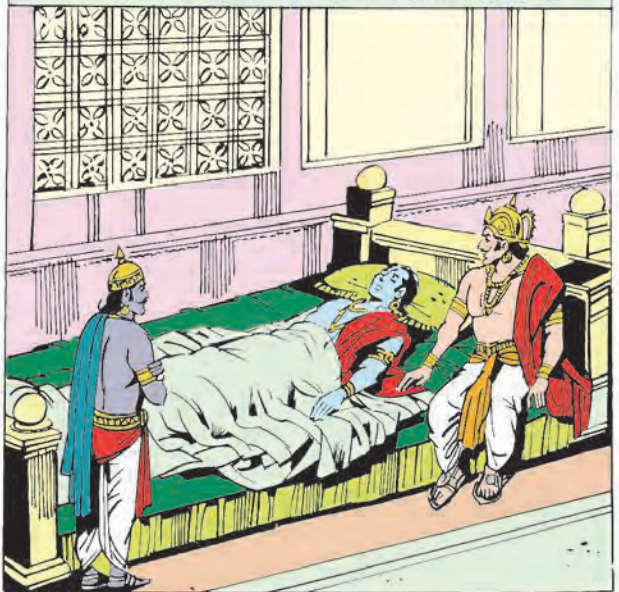
"ON HEARING OF THIS DURYODHANA TOO SPED TOWARDS DWARAKA.



"THE TWO REACHED KRISHNA'S CHAMBER."



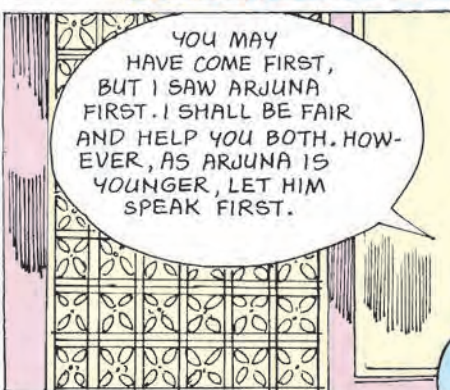
"BOTH OF THEM WAITED FOR KRISHNA TO WAKE UP."

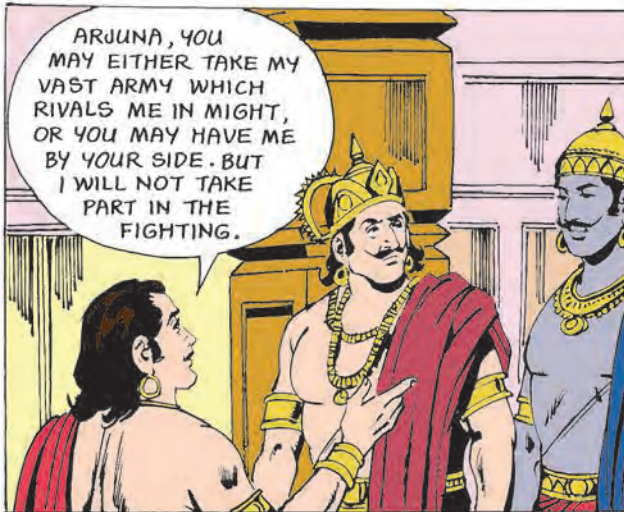


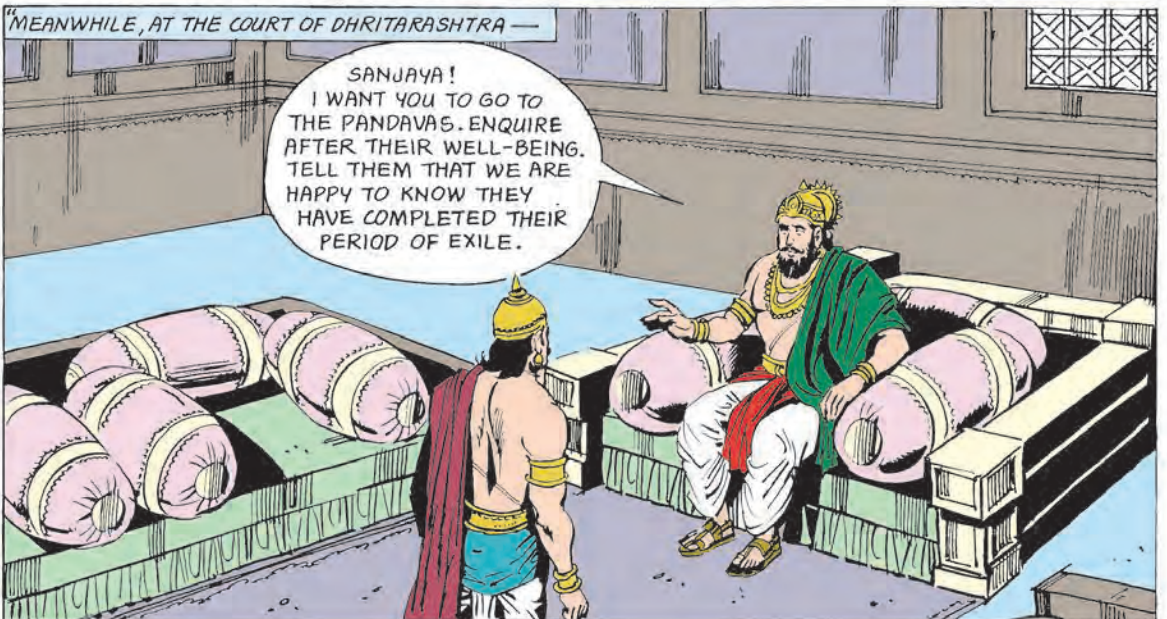
"SHORTLY—"

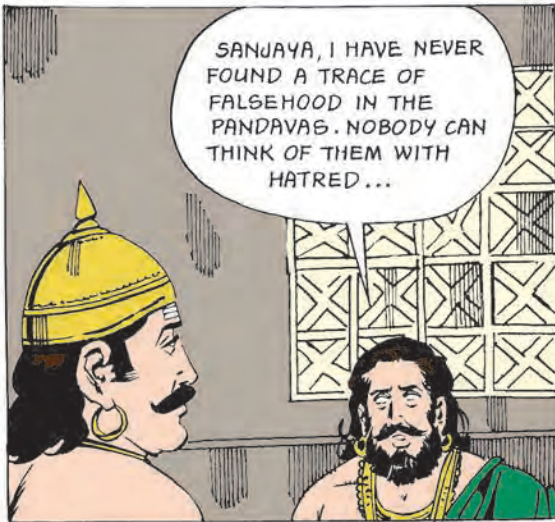


"BEFORE ARJUNA COULD REPLY—"

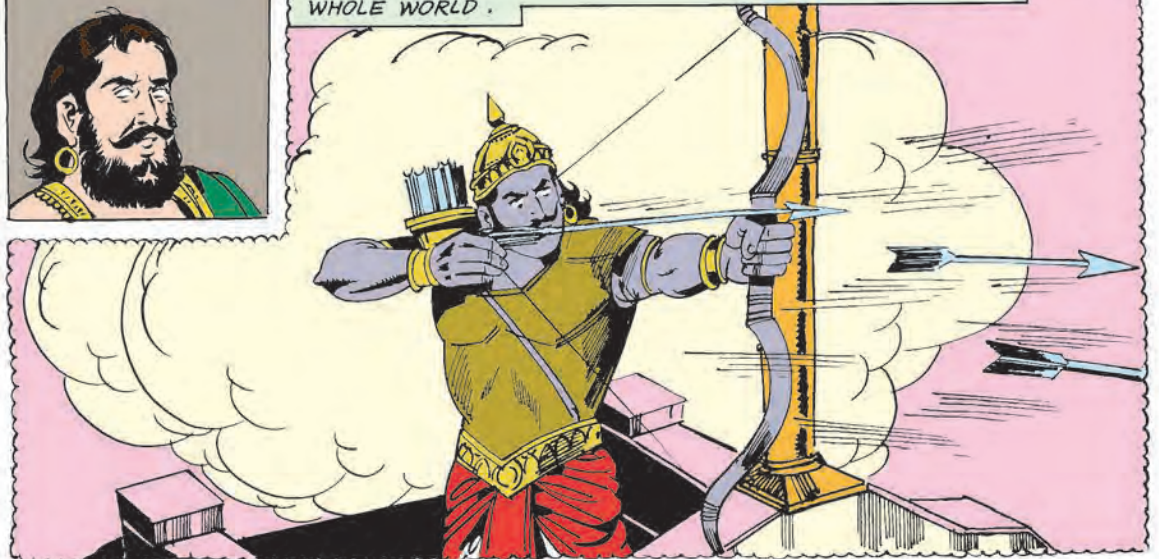


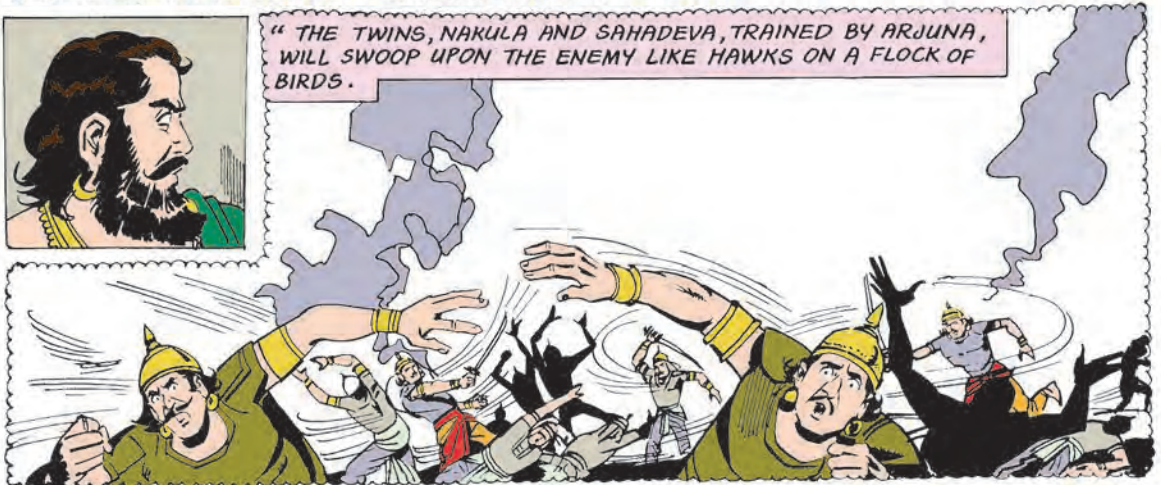
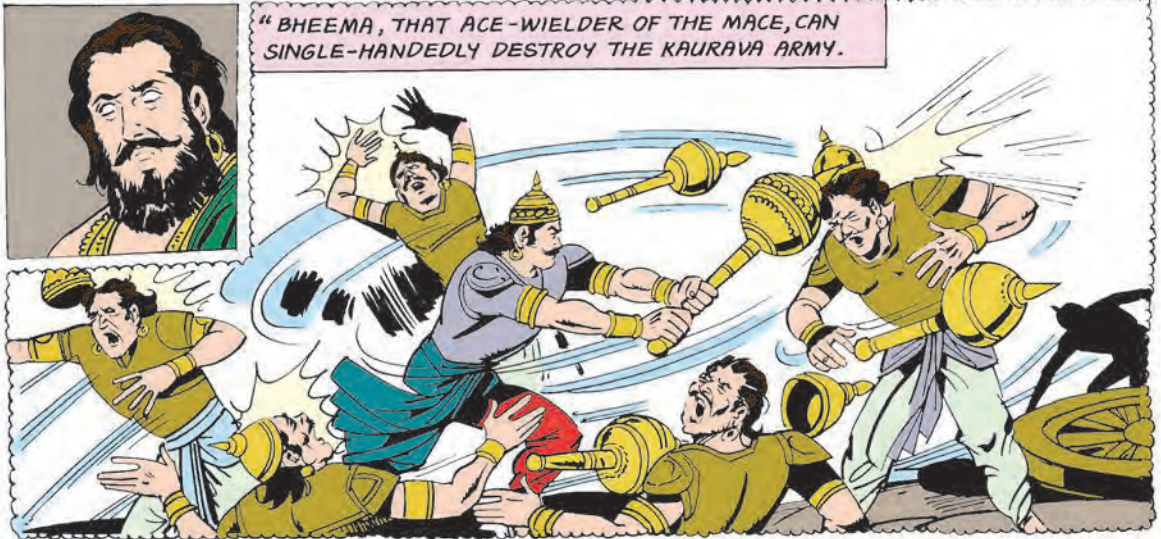


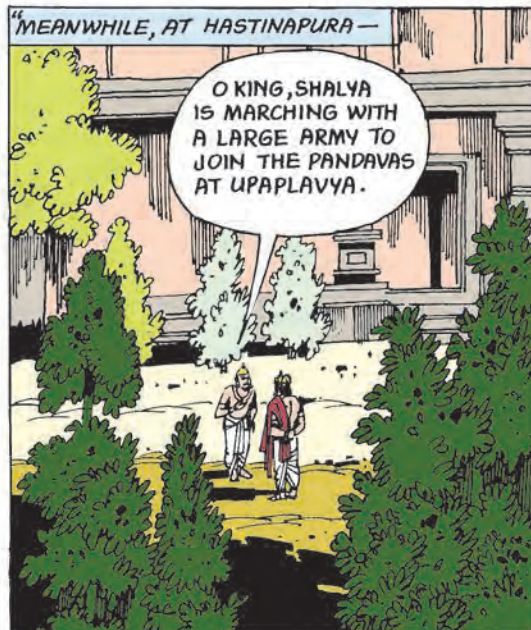
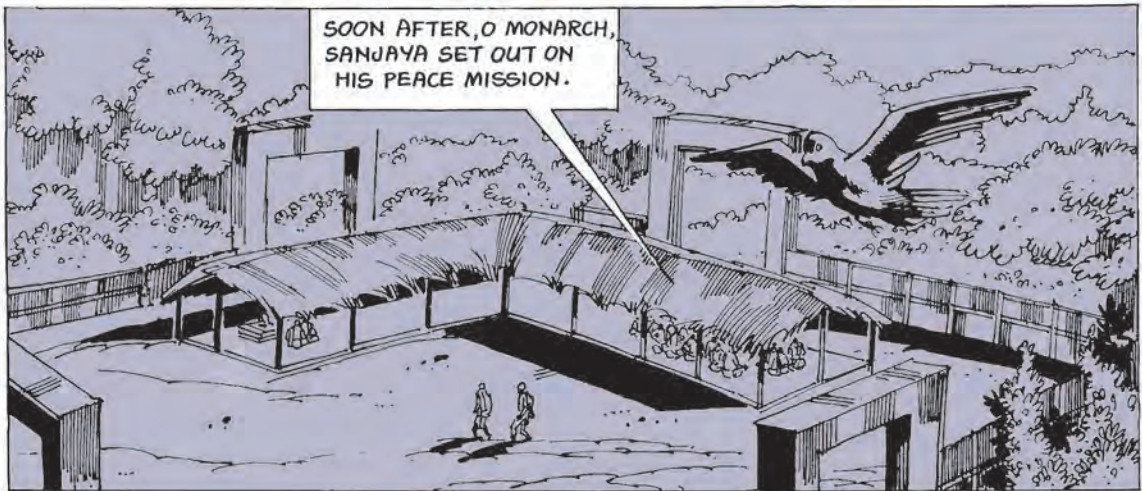
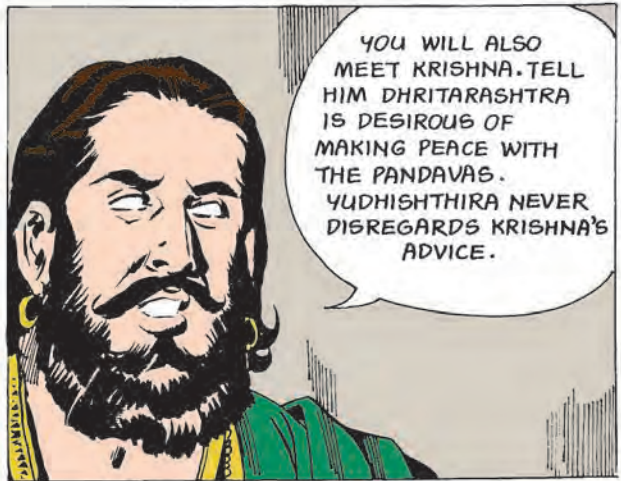
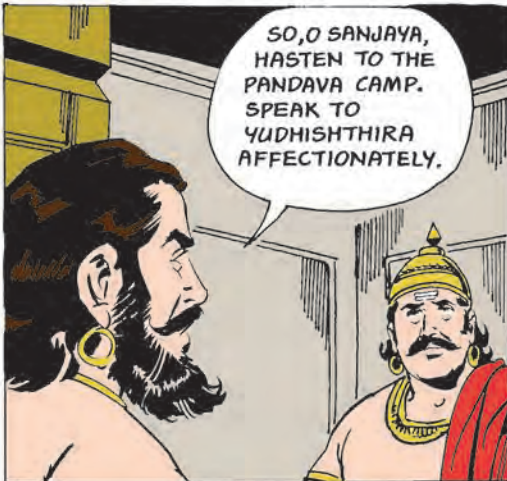




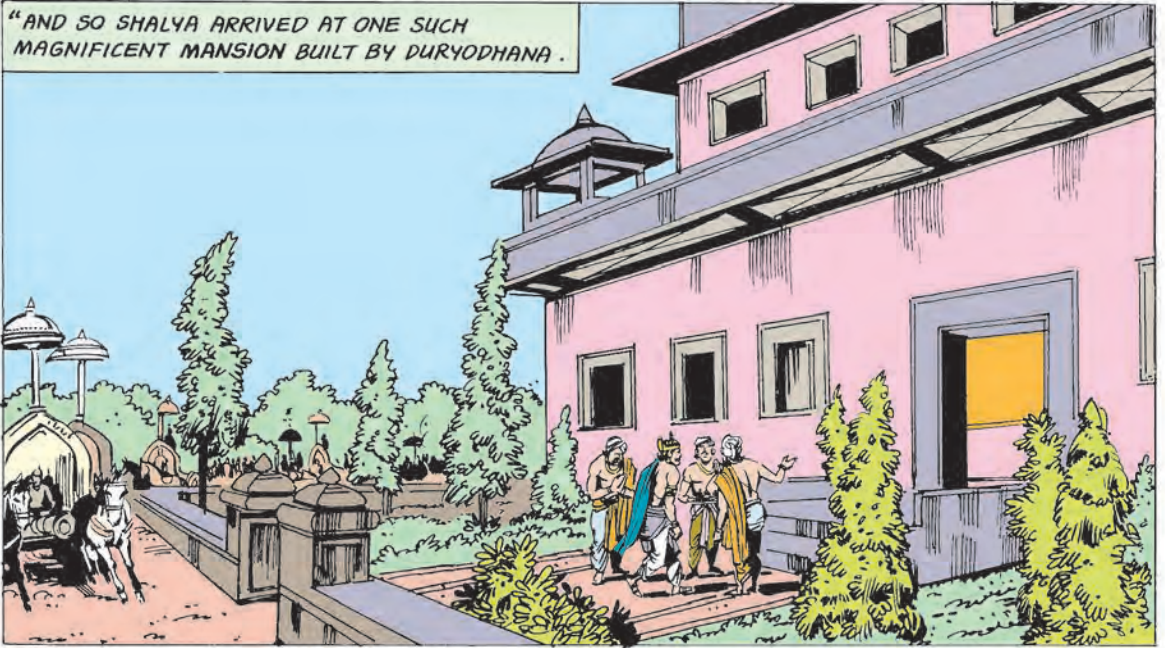
"ARJUNA, BY USING THE GANDEEVA ALONE, CAN DESTROY THE WHOLE WORLD."





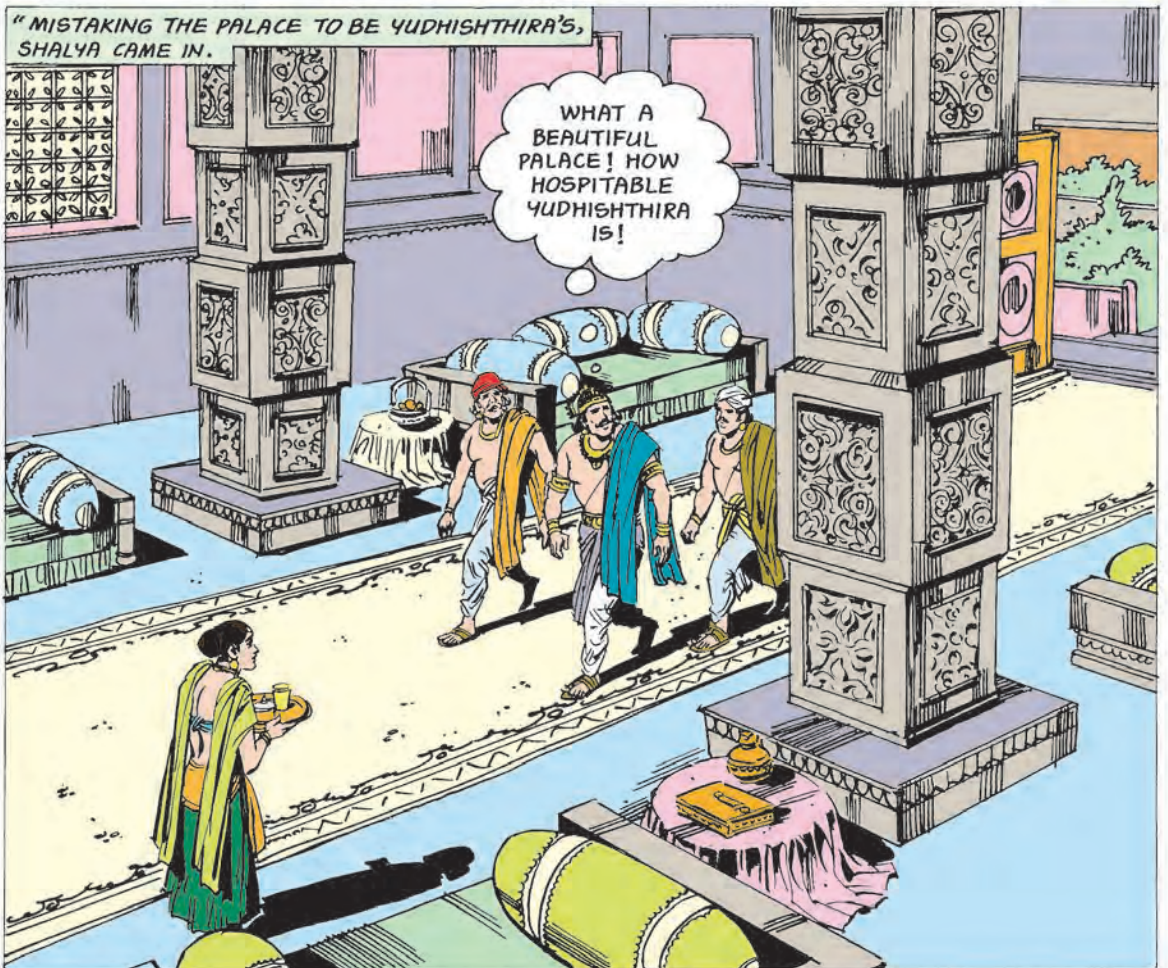


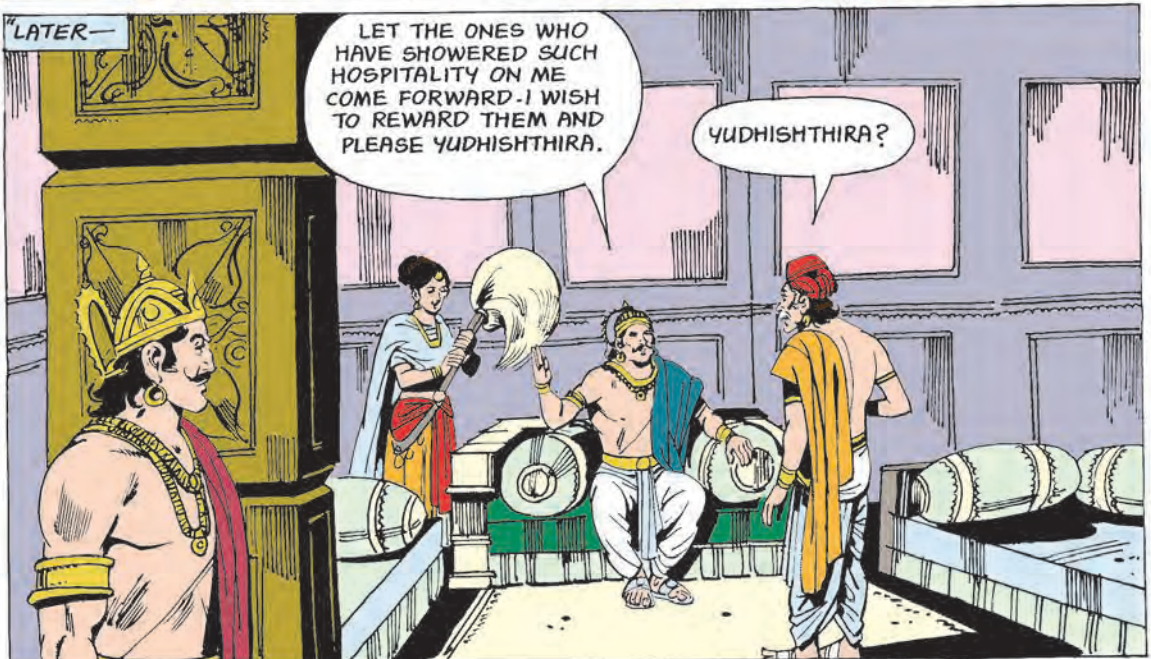
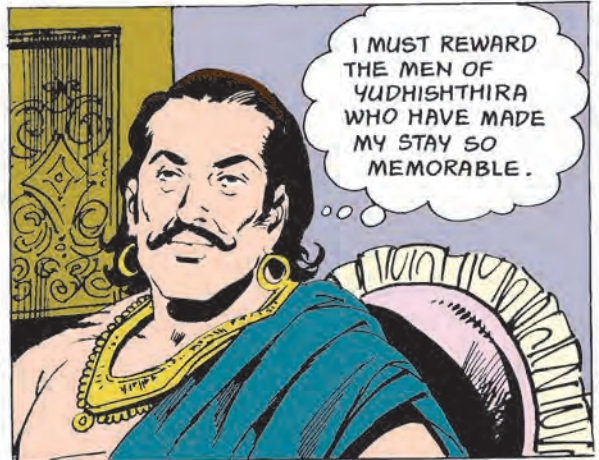
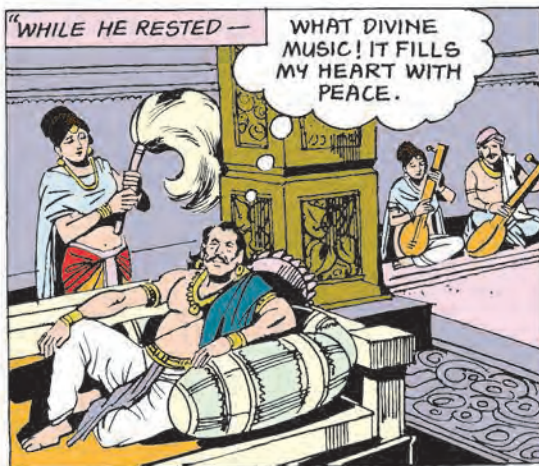
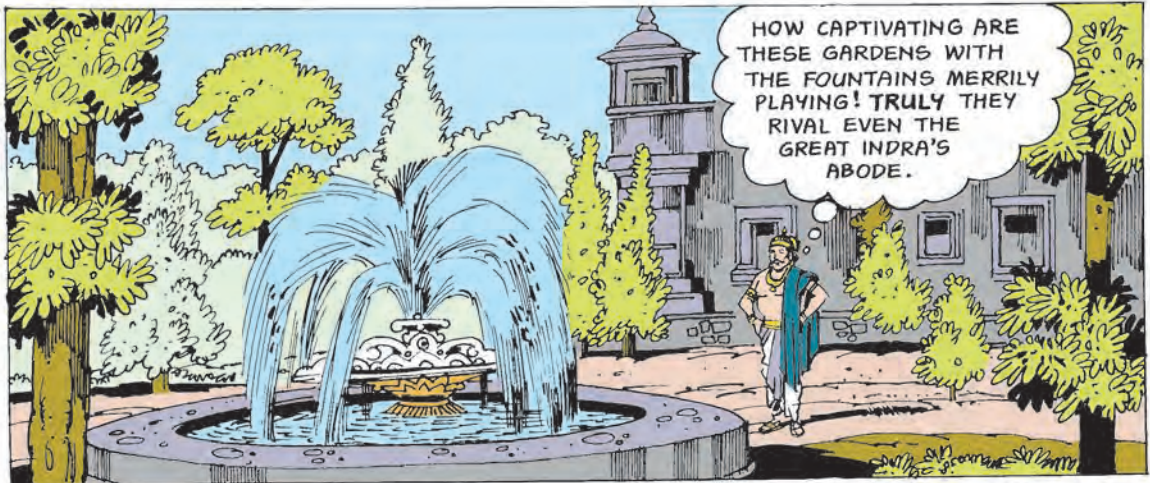
"AND SO SHALYA ARRIVED AT ONE SUCH  
MAGNIFICENT MANSION BUILT BY DURYODHANA .



"MISTAKING THE PALACE TO BE YUDHISHTHIRA'S,  
SHALYA CAME IN.

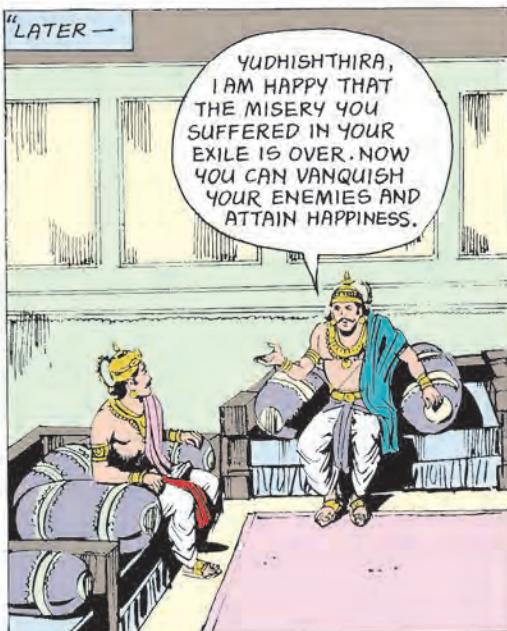
WHAT A  
BEAUTIFUL  
PALACE! HOW  
HOSPITABLE  
YUDHISHTHIRA  
IS!





"AT THAT MOMENT—





WHEREUPON YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —

O KING, NO DOUBT  
YOU WILL FULFIL YOUR  
PROMISE. BUT YOU  
MUST DO ME A  
FAVOUR...

...UNDOUBTEDLY  
YOU WILL BE  
KARNA'S CHARIOTEER  
WHEN HE MEETS  
ARJUNA IN SINGLE  
COMBAT. ON THAT  
OCCASION, YOU MUST  
PROTECT ARJUNA.

YOU MUST PERSISTENTLY  
DISHEARTEN KARNA BY  
RECOUNTING ARJUNA'S  
EXPLOITS. THUS ARJUNA WILL  
GAIN THE UPPER HAND AND  
VICTORY WILL BE OURS.

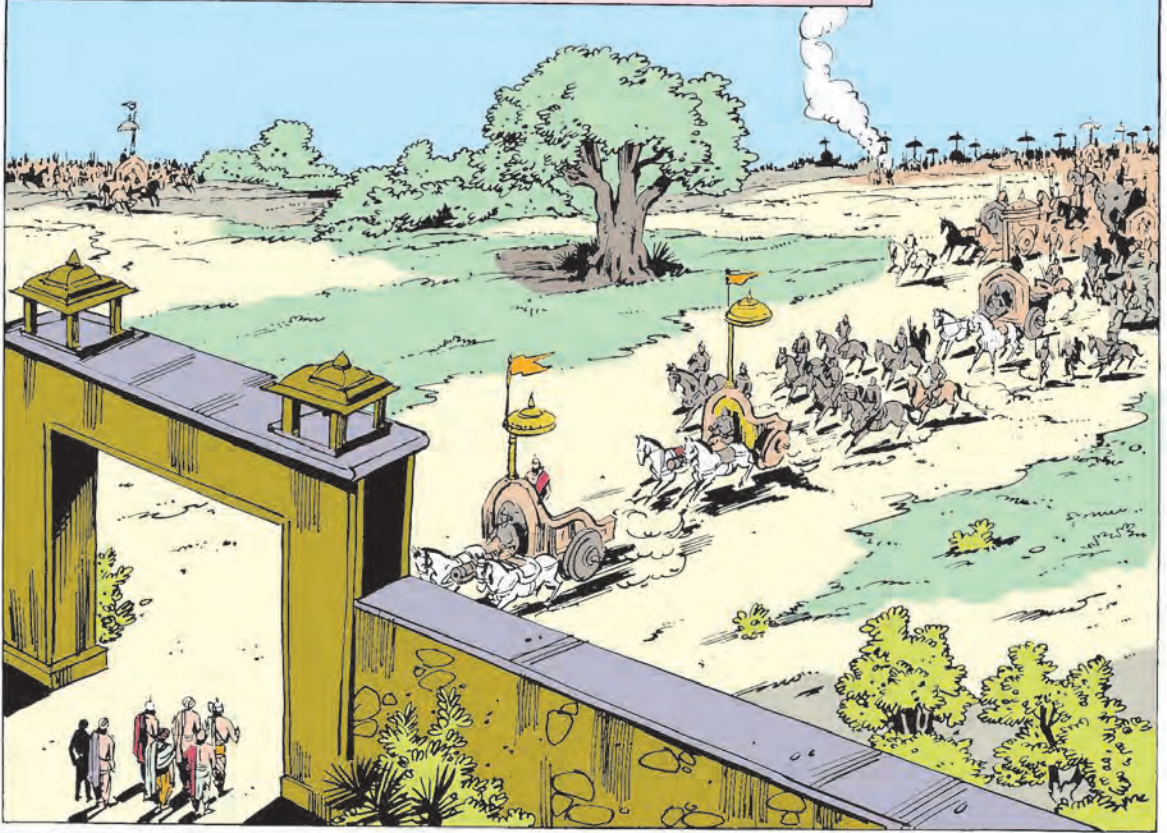
I WILL DO AS  
YOU INSTRUCT AND  
WILL ALWAYS KEEP YOUR  
WELFARE IN MIND.  
YOU HAVE SUFFERED  
GREATLY, BUT IN THE  
END JOY WILL BE  
YOURS.

"THEN SHALYA LEFT WITH HIS ARMY FOR DURYODHANA'S CAMP.

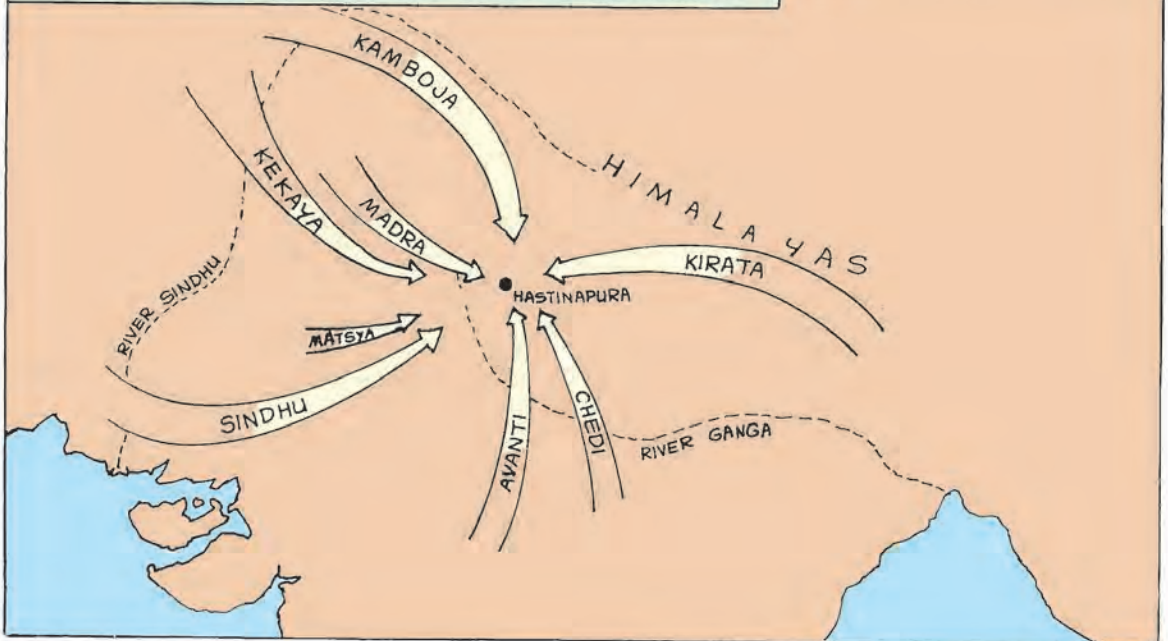
"AND THEN THE TROOPS CAME MARCHING INTO UPAPLAVYA FROM ALL DIRECTIONS. SATYAKI, THE GREAT HERO, CAME WITH HIS ARMY. THE FORCES OF THE CHIEF OF THE CHEDIS, THE KING OF MAGADHA AND THOSE OF VIRATA TOO SWELLED THE PANDAVA RANKS.



"THE NUMBERS IN THE KAURAVA CAMP TOO WERE SWELLING. KING BHAGADATTA, THE VALIANT BHURISHRAVAS, KRITAVARMAN, THE SON OF THE HRIDIKA, THE BHOJAS, THE ANDHAKAS AND THE KUKURAS - ALL CAME TO DURYODHANA'S AID.



"AND TO HASTINAPURA ALSO CAME OTHER GREAT ARMIES.



"MEANWHILE AT UPAPLAYA, DHRITARASHTRA'S AMBASSADOR SANJAYA WAS GIVEN A WARM WELCOME BY YUDHISHTHIRA."



"LATER —"

KING DHRITARASHTRA HAS ENQUIRED AFTER YOUR WELFARE AND THAT OF YOUR BROTHERS AND DRAUPADI.

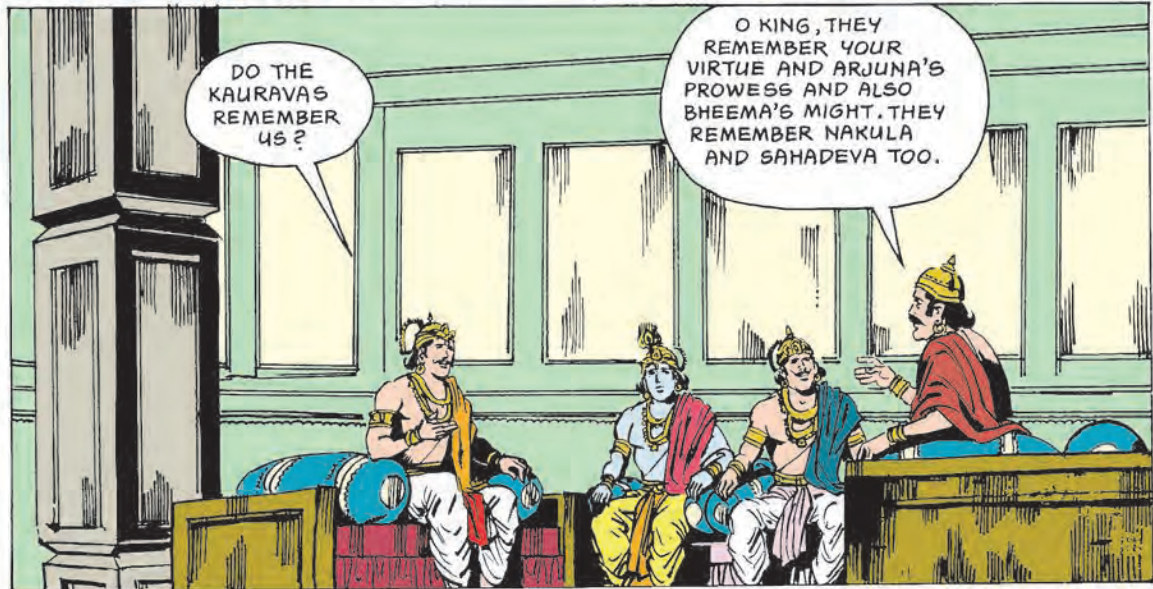


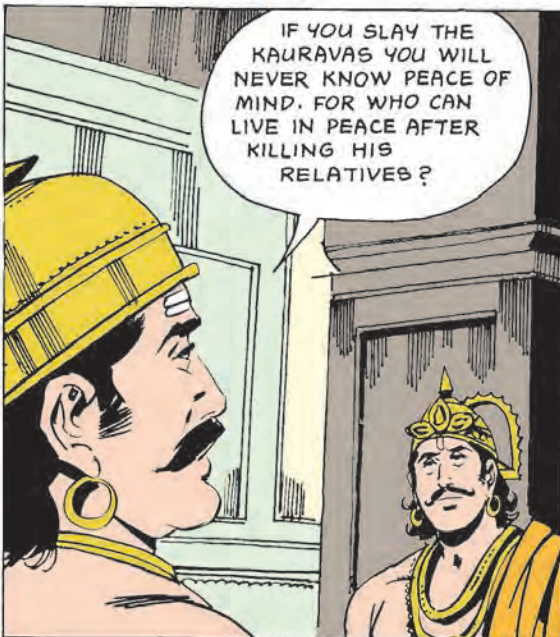
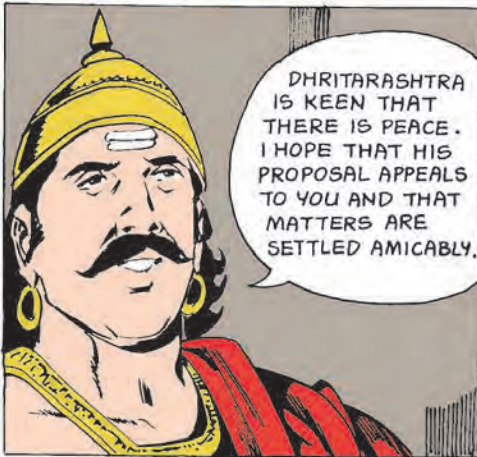
WE ARE ALL VERY WELL. IT IS A LONG TIME SINCE WE RECEIVED NEWS OF OUR ELDERS. HOW ARE THEY ALL?



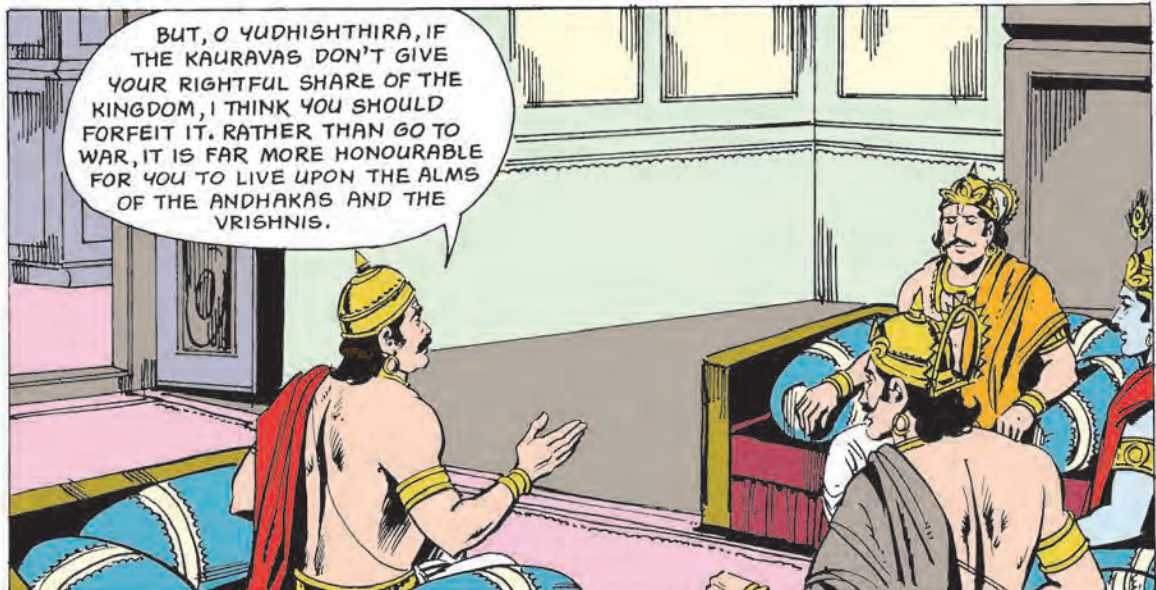
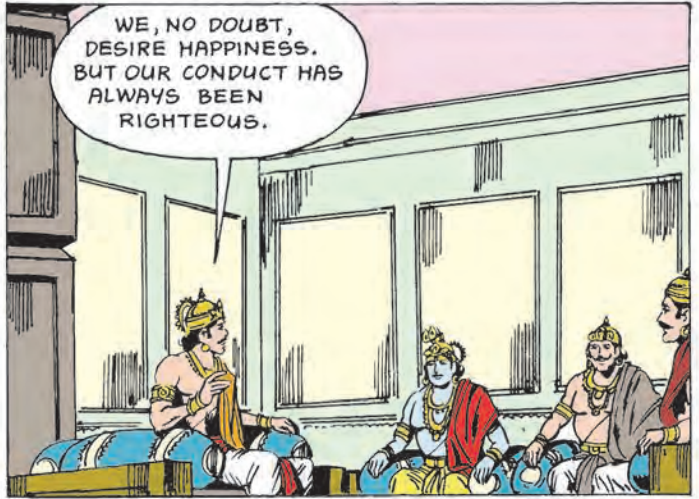
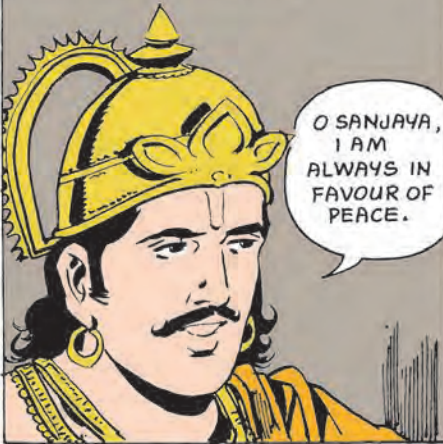
DO THE KAURAVAS REMEMBER US?

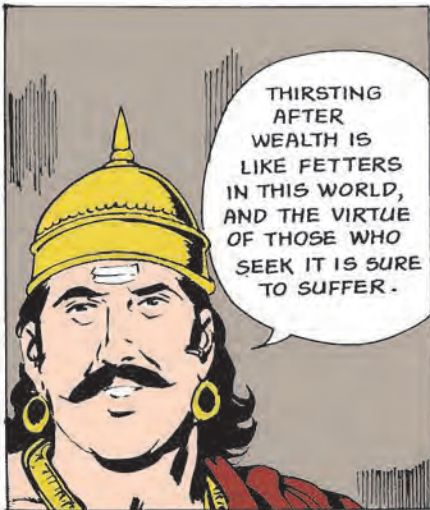
O KING, THEY REMEMBER YOUR VIRTUE AND ARJUNA'S PROWESS AND ALSO BHEEMA'S MIGHT. THEY REMEMBER NAKULA AND SAHADEVA TOO.

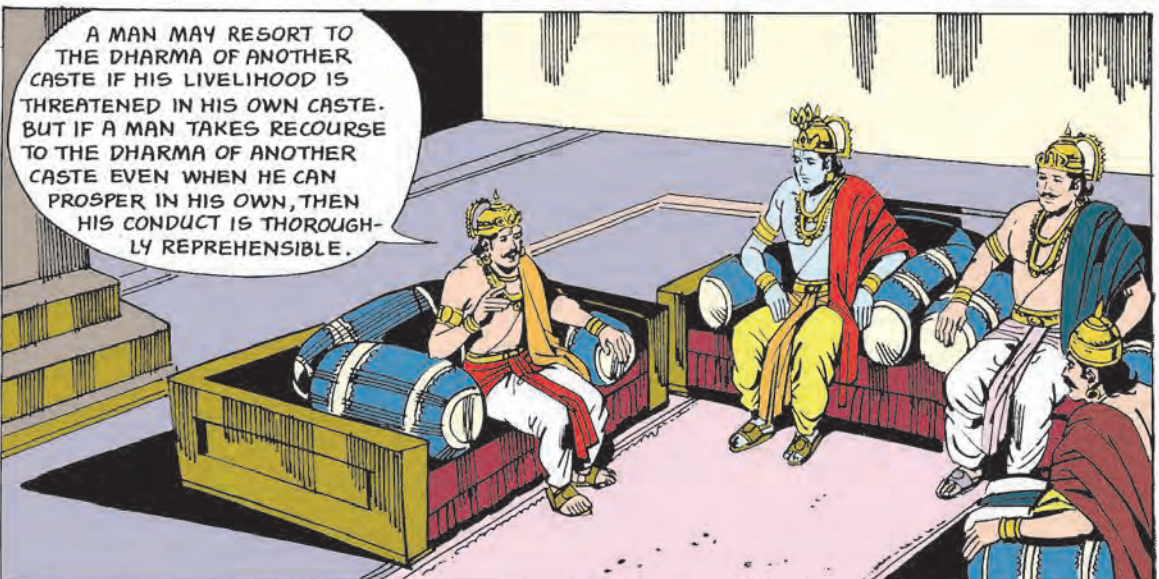
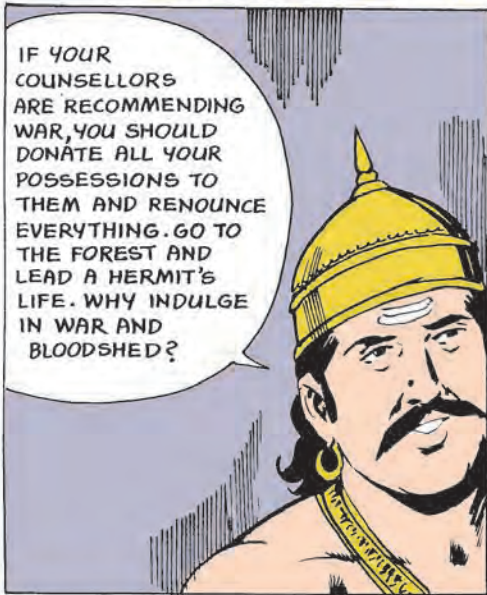
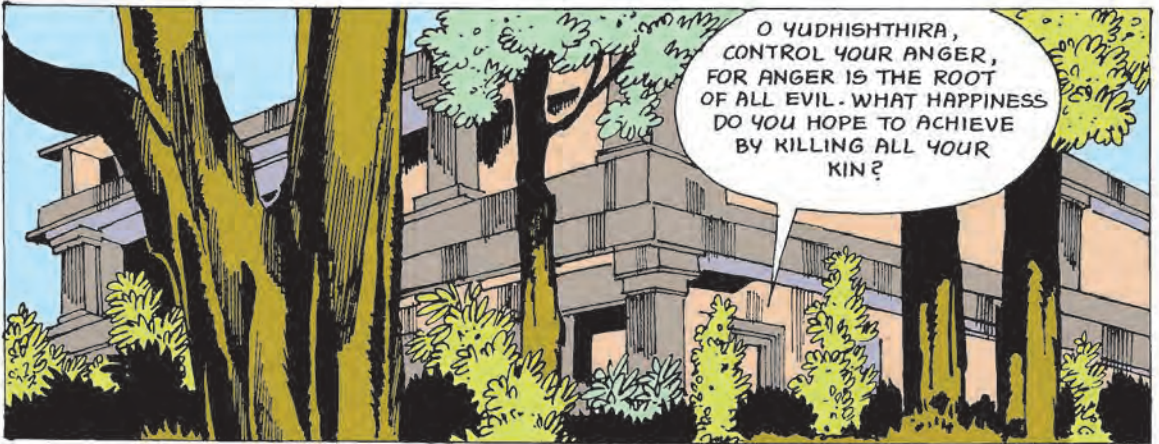


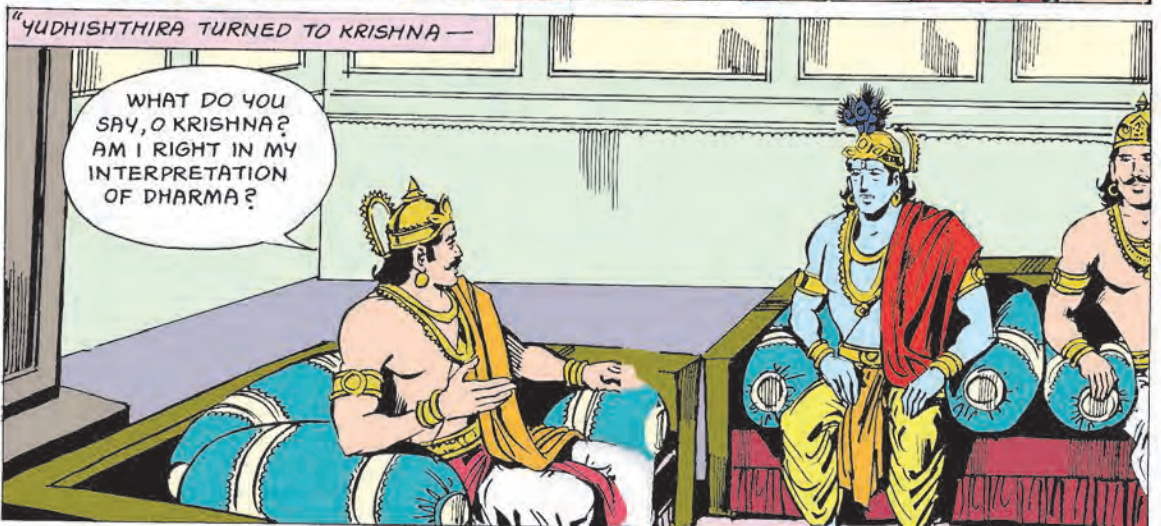
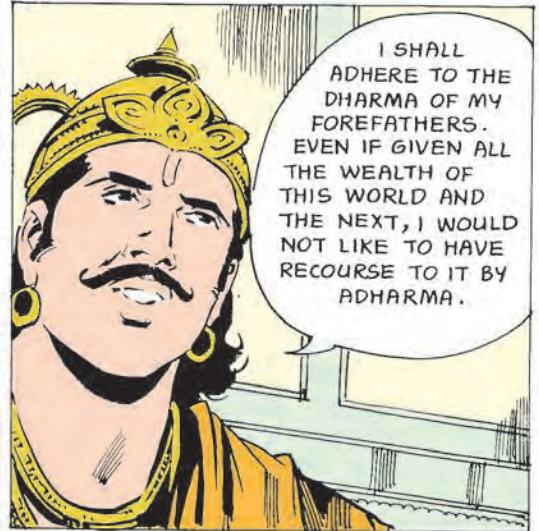
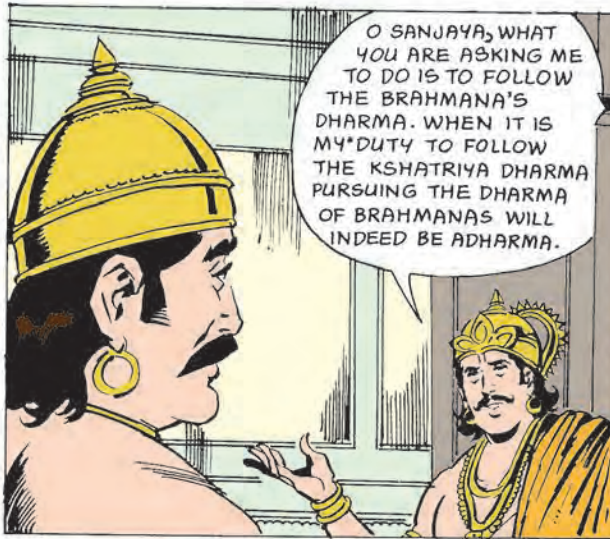


"SAID YUDHISHTHIRA —









"KRISHNA SAID—

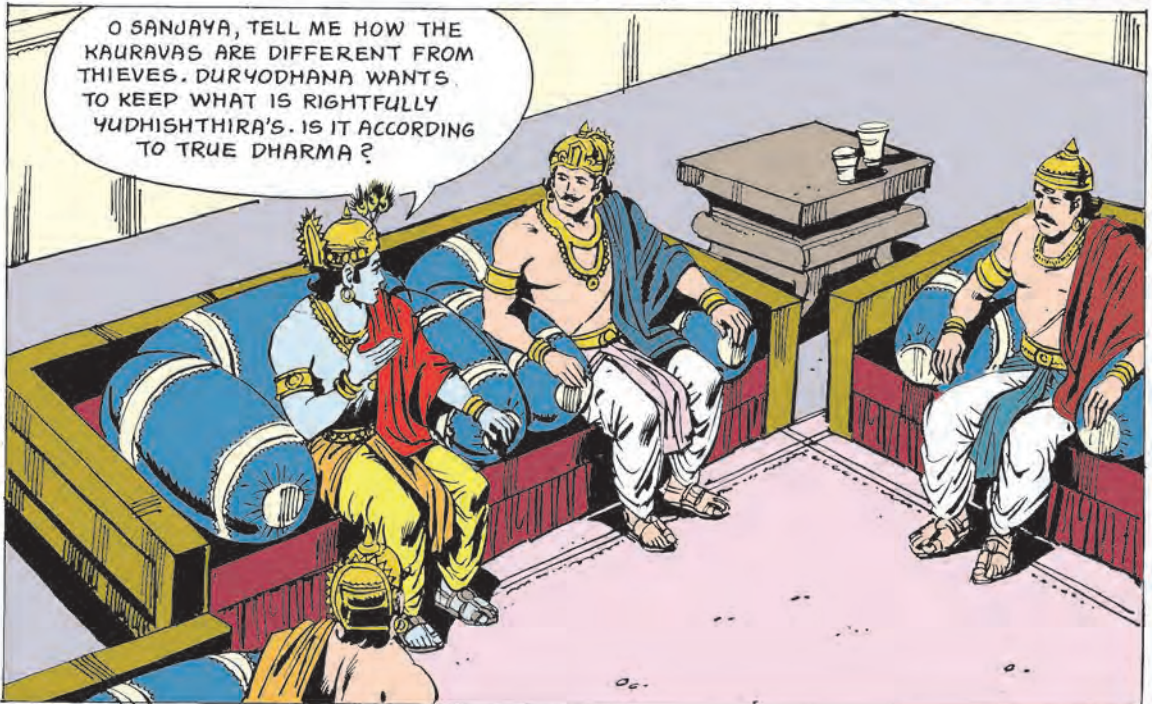
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR MATTERS TO BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY SO LONG AS THE SONS OF DHRTARASHTRA COVET THE ENTIRE KINGDOM.

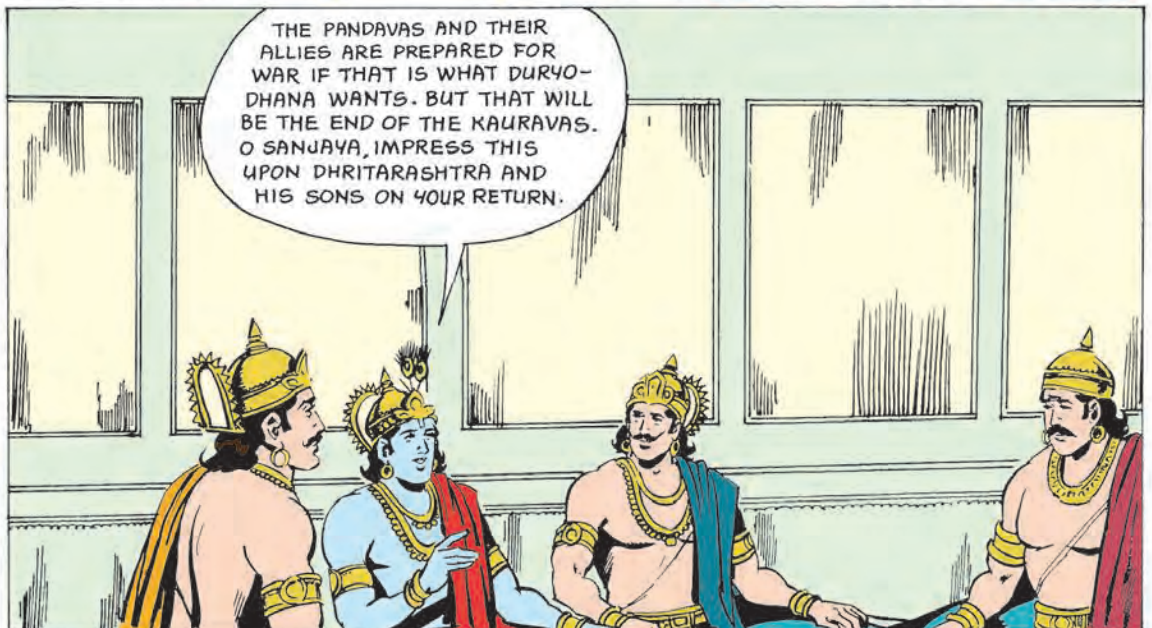
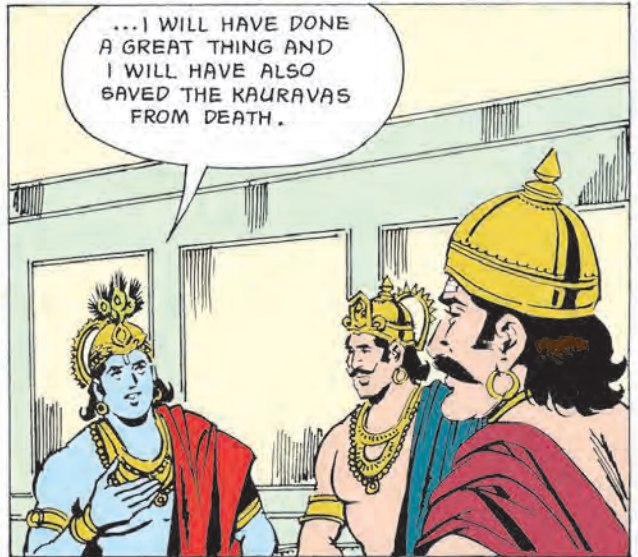
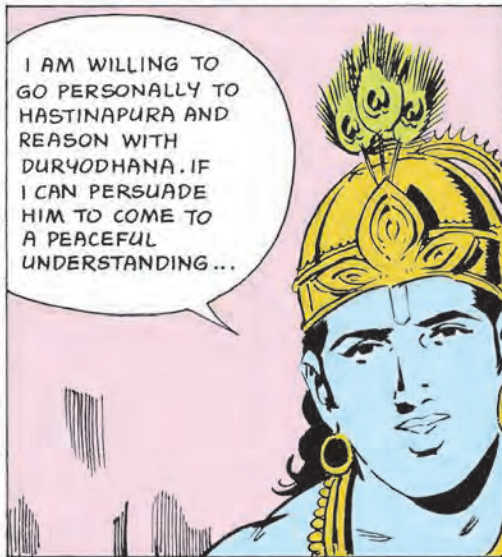
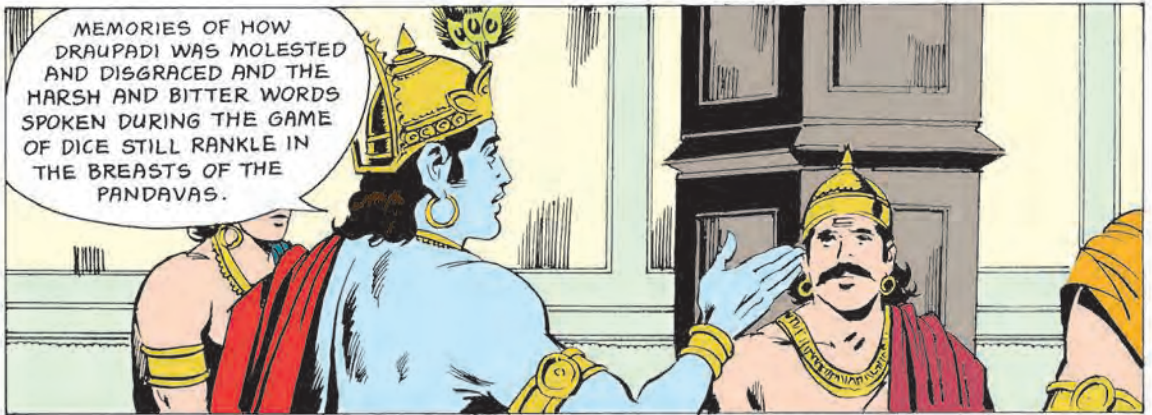


THEY WISH TO SEIZE AND KEEP THE KINGDOM RIGHTFULLY INHERITED BY THE PANDAVAS. THEFT IS DESPICABLE WHETHER IT HAS BEEN COMMITTED OPENLY OR OTHERWISE.



O SANJAYA, TELL ME HOW THE KAURAVAS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THIEVES. DURYODHANA WANTS TO KEEP WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY YUDHISHTHIRA'S. IS IT ACCORDING TO TRUE DHARMA?





"YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —

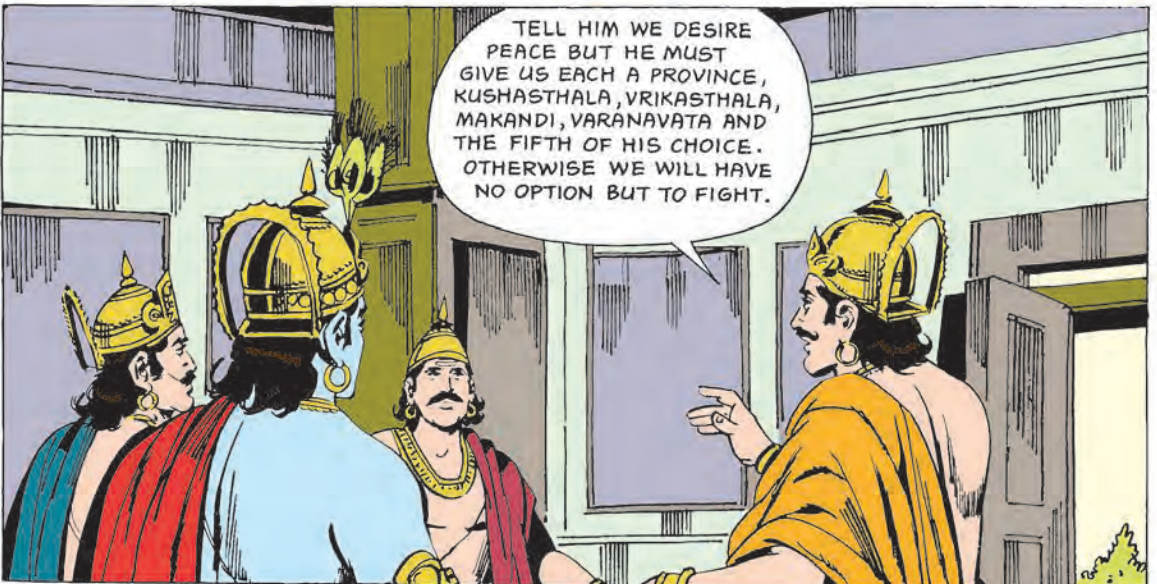
O SANJAYA,  
CONVEY MY REGARDS  
TO THE KAURAVAS. TELL  
THE WISE BHEESHMA TO  
DO EVERYTHING SO THAT  
THIS CALAMITY THAT STARES  
THEM IN THEIR FACE IS  
AVERTED, SO THAT ALL  
HIS GRANDSONS MAY  
LIVE IN PEACE.



REQUEST  
VIDURA TO  
GIVE THE  
KAURAVAS  
PROPER AND  
WISE COUNSEL.



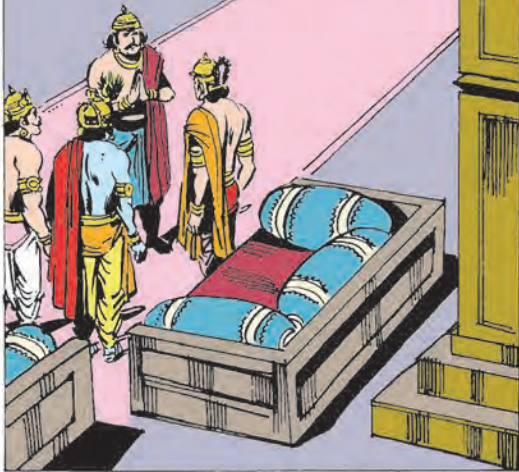
TELL DURYODHANA  
THAT HE CANNOT RULE  
THE WHOLE KINGDOM  
WITHOUT MEETING THE  
CHALLENGE OF A WAR  
WITH US.



TELL HIM WE DESIRE  
PEACE BUT HE MUST  
GIVE US EACH A PROVINCE,  
KUSHASTHALA, VRIKASTHALA,  
MAKANDI, VARANAVATA AND  
THE FIFTH OF HIS CHOICE.  
OTHERWISE WE WILL HAVE  
NO OPTION BUT TO FIGHT.

"SANJAYA ROSE TO LEAVE."

I SHALL NOW  
BID YOU FAREWELL.  
FORGIVE ME IF I GOT  
CARRIED AWAY BY  
EMOTION AND SPOKE  
WORDS THAT CAUSED  
YOU OFFENCE.

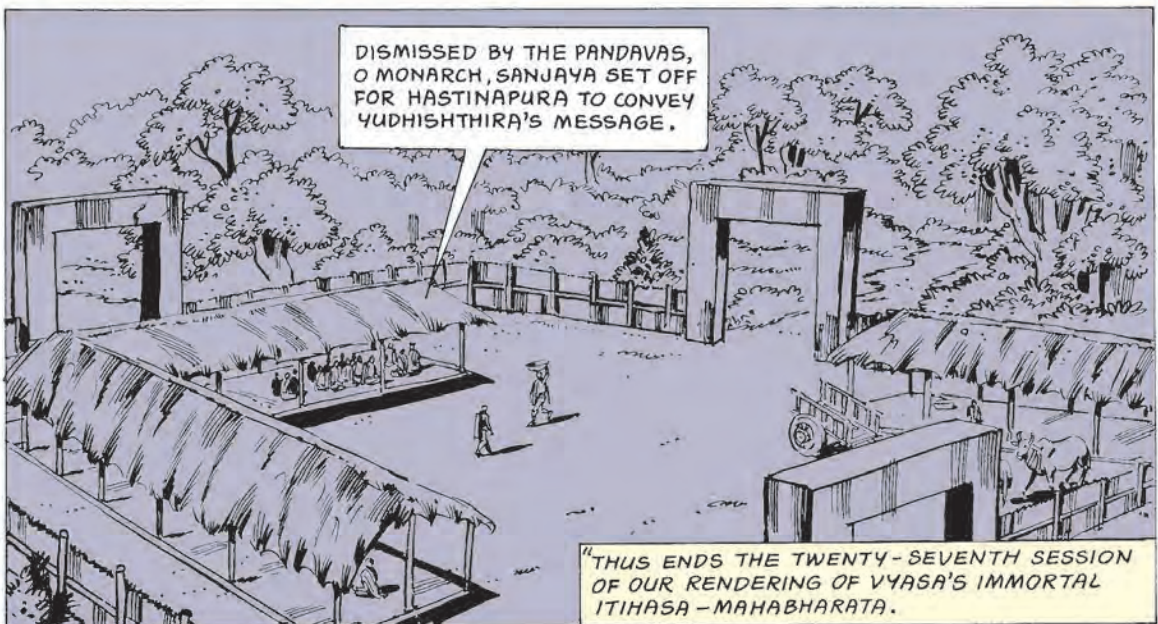


"YUDHISHTHIRA BADE HIM FAREWELL BY SAYING —

LET BROTHERS  
MEET BROTHERS  
AND FATHERS MEET  
SONS SMILINGLY.  
I WISH THE KAURAVAS  
AND PANDAVAS WILL  
LIVE IN AMITY.



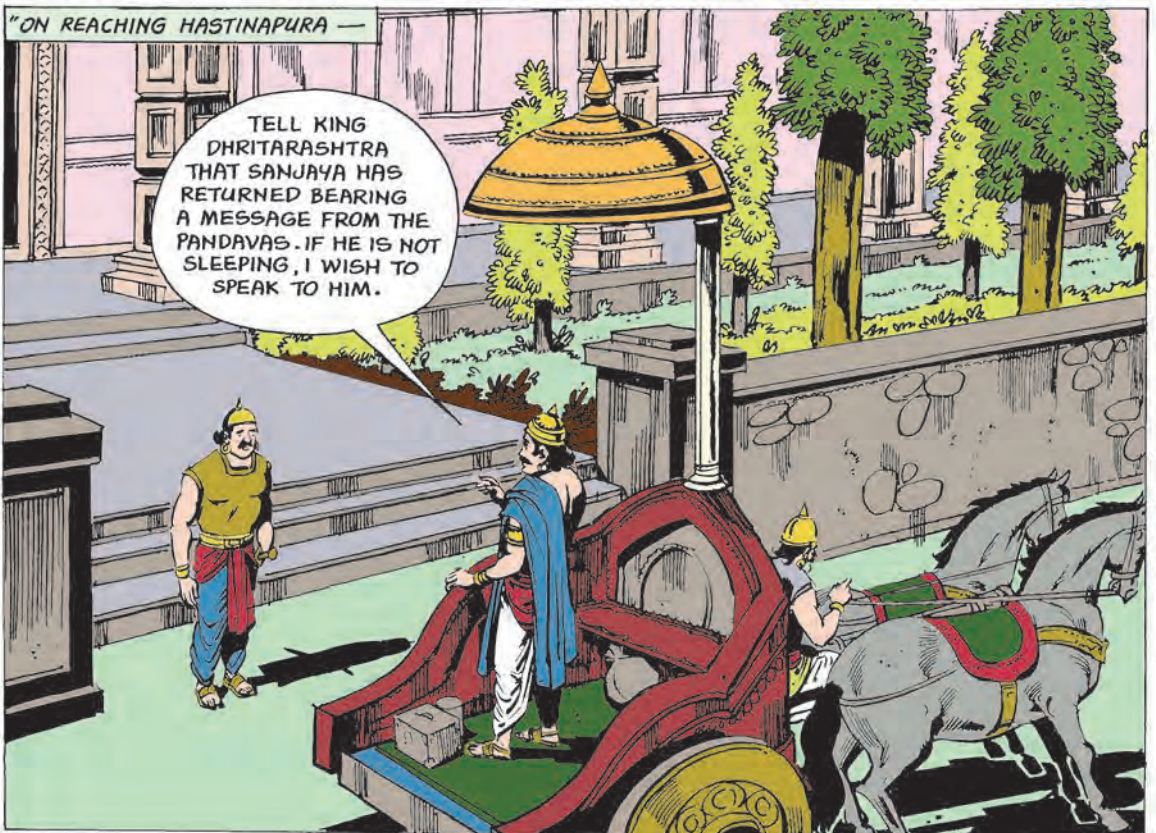
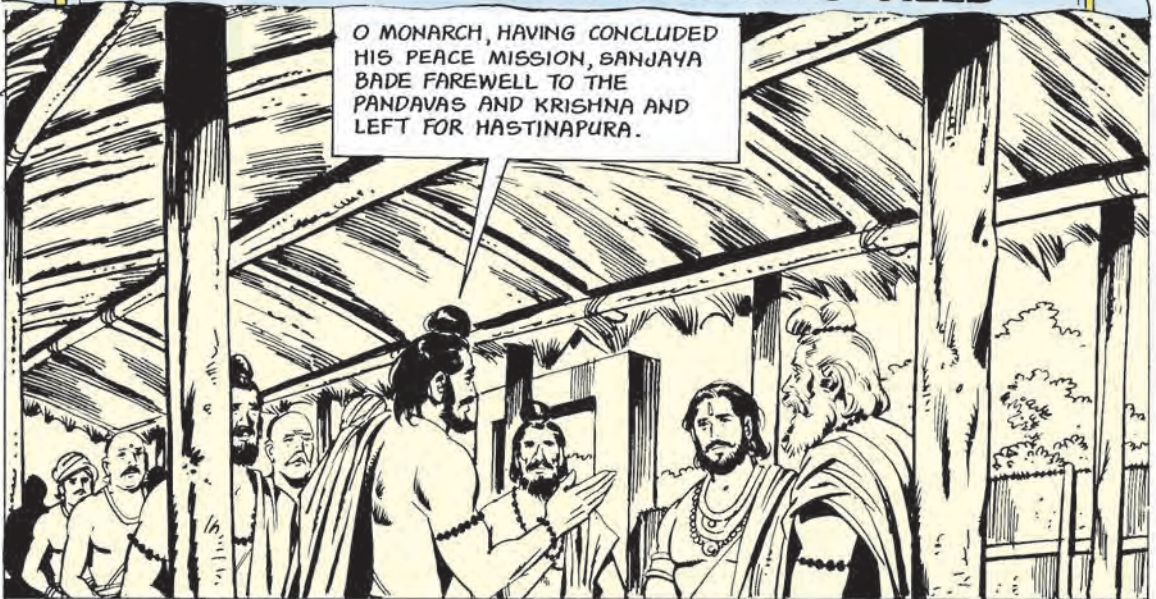
DISMISSED BY THE PANDAVAS,  
O MONARCH, SANJAYA SET OFF  
FOR HASTINAPURA TO CONVEY  
YUDHISHTHIRA'S MESSAGE.



"THUS ENDS THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION  
OF OUR RENDERING OF VYASA'S IMMORTAL  
ITIHASA - MAHABHARATA.

# Mahabharata-28

## DURYODHANA REFUSES TO YIELD



SANJAYA MET DHRITARASHTRA IN HIS CHAMBER.

O KING, I HAVE JUST RETURNED AFTER MEETING THE PANDAVAS. YUDHISHTHIRA HAS ENQUIRED AFTER YOUR HEALTH AND THAT OF YOUR SONS, GRANDSONS AND COUNSELLORS.

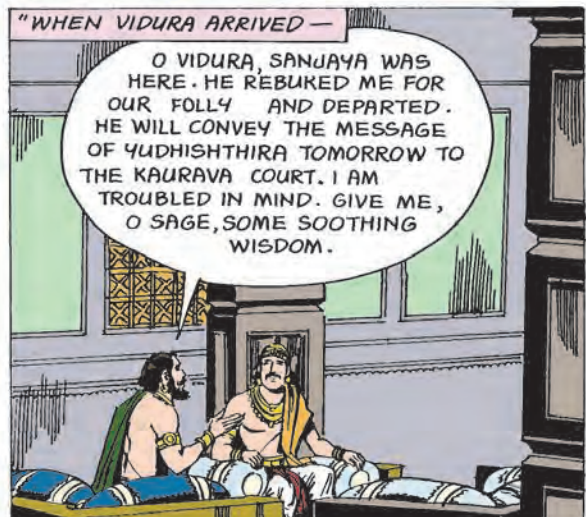
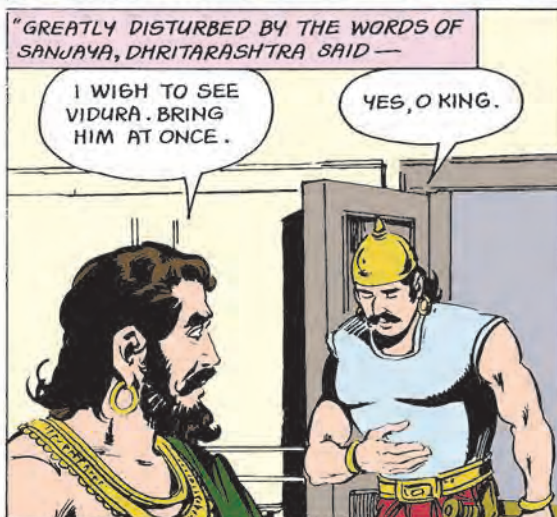
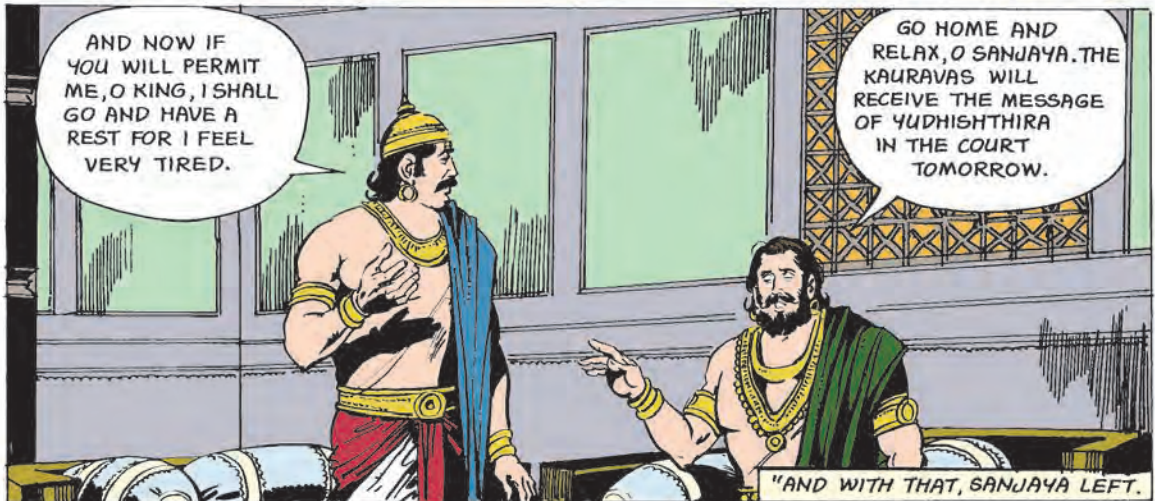
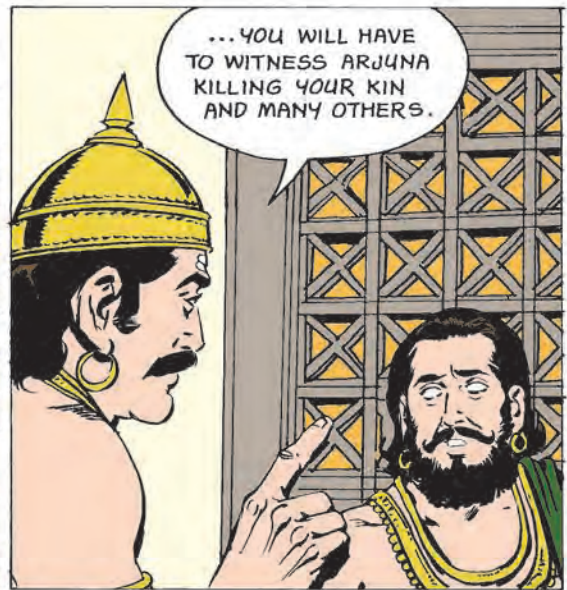
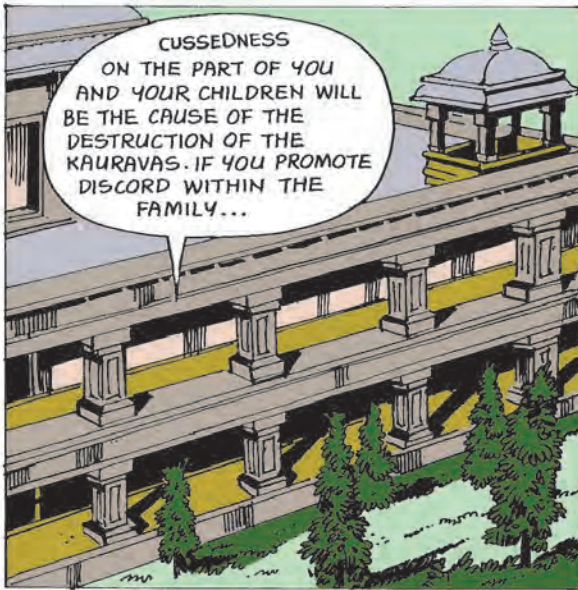
TELL ME, O SANJAYA, ARE THE SONS OF PANDU WELL?

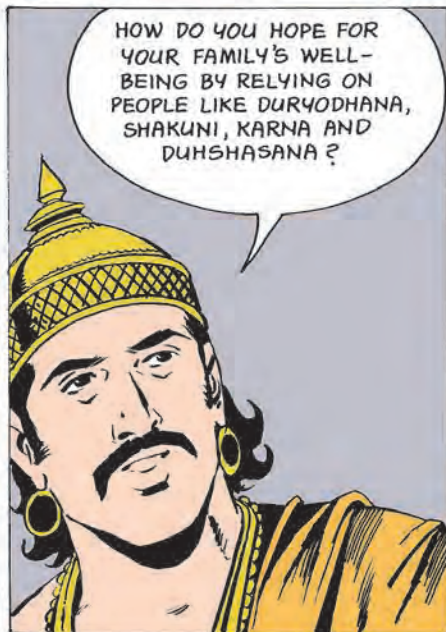
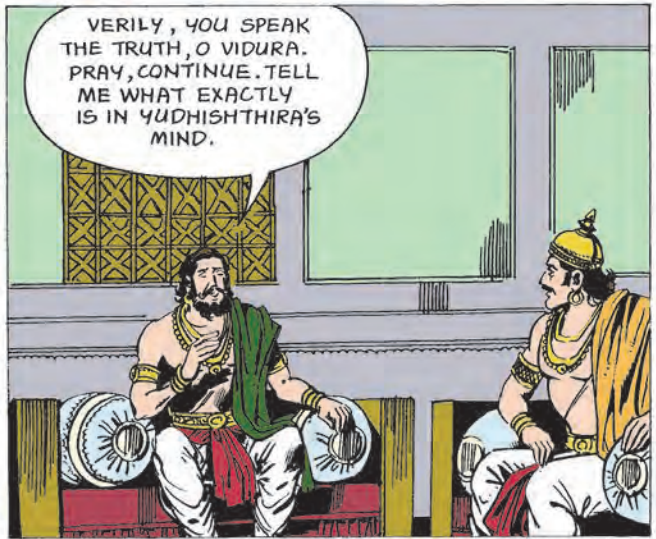
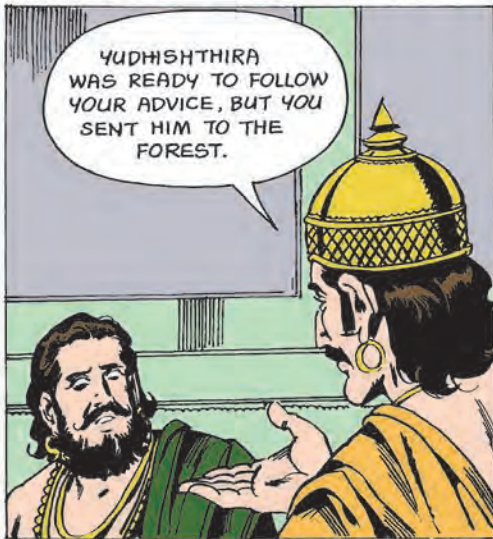
THE PANDAVAS ENJOY EXCELLENT HEALTH. O KING, THEY WISH TO BE RESTORED TO THE KINGDOM AND WEALTH THEY OWNED EARLIER.

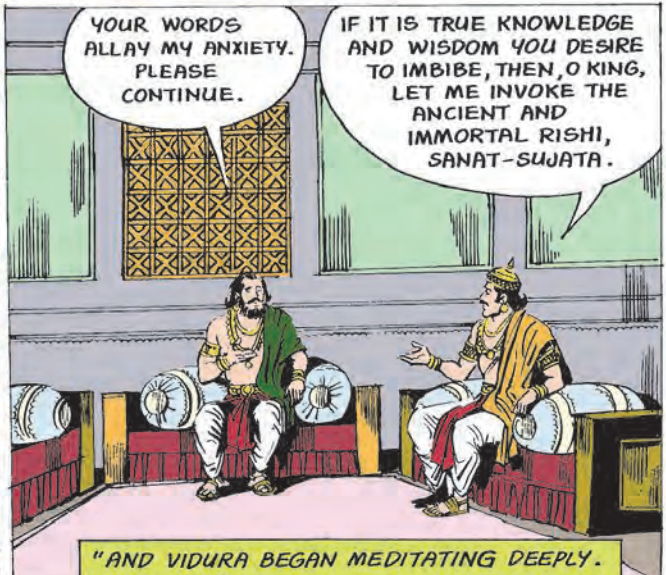
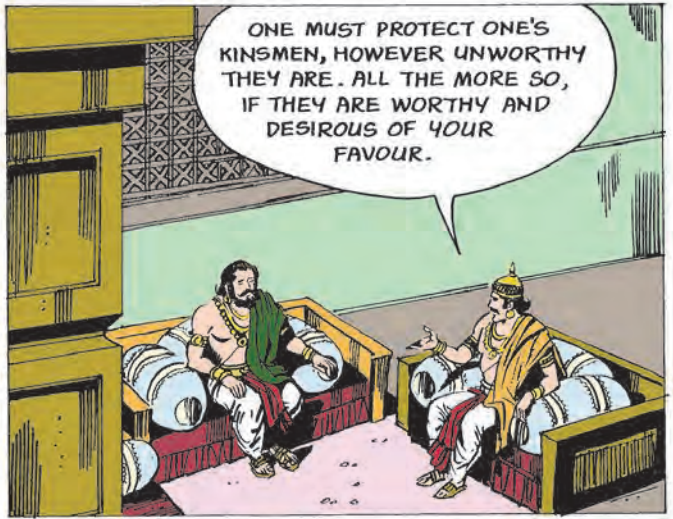
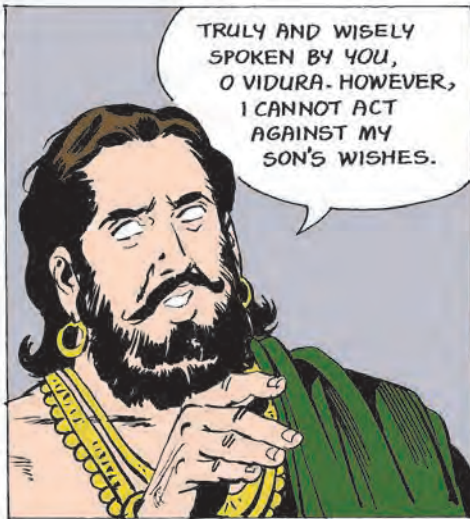
YOU ARE ENDOWED WITH INTELLIGENCE. YOU WISH TO ADHERE TO DHARMA AND YOU HAVE WISE COUNSEL TO RELY ON. HOW IS IT THAT YOU TOLERATED SUCH CRUELTY INFLECTED UPON THE PANDAVAS?

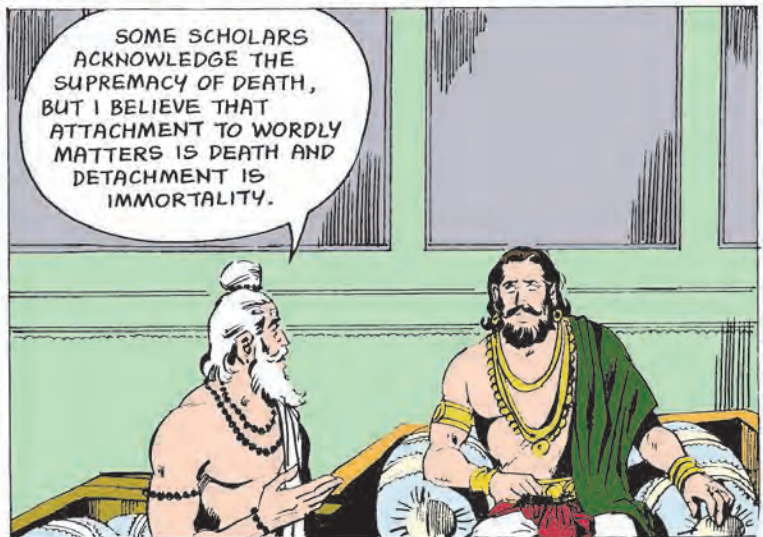
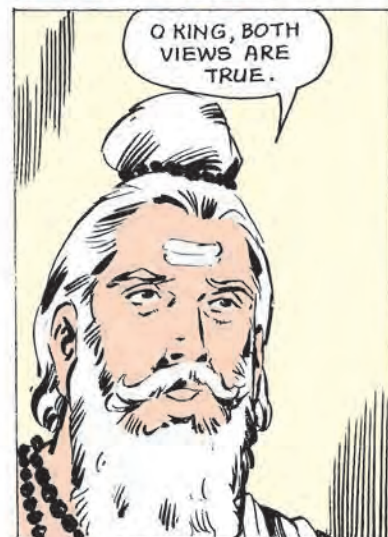
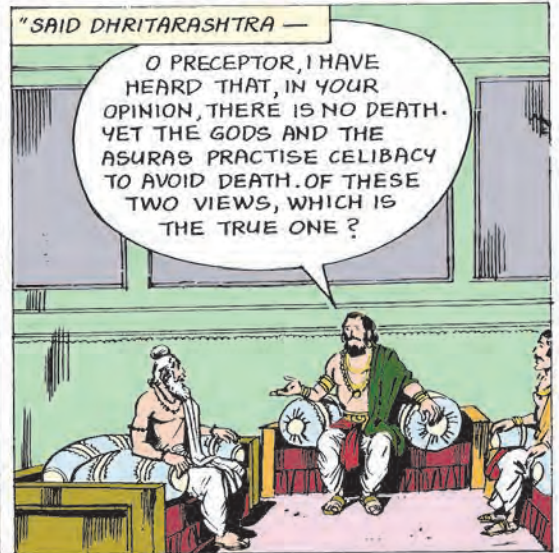
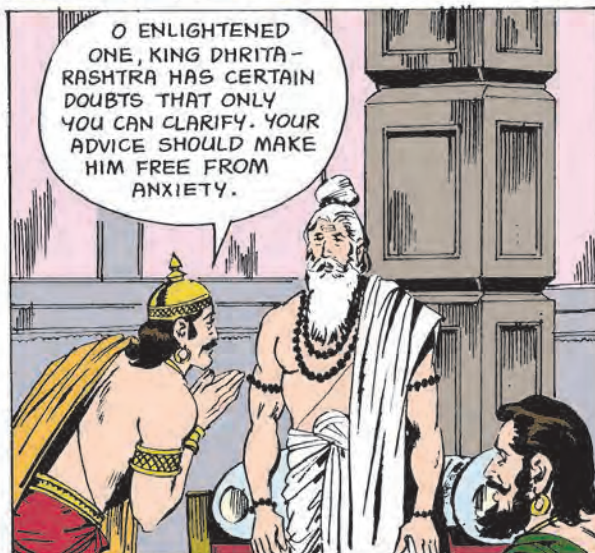
REFLECT UPON YOUR DEEDS, O KING. THEY ARE CONTRARY TO DHARMA AND HAVE EARNED YOU A BAD NAME IN THE WORLD.

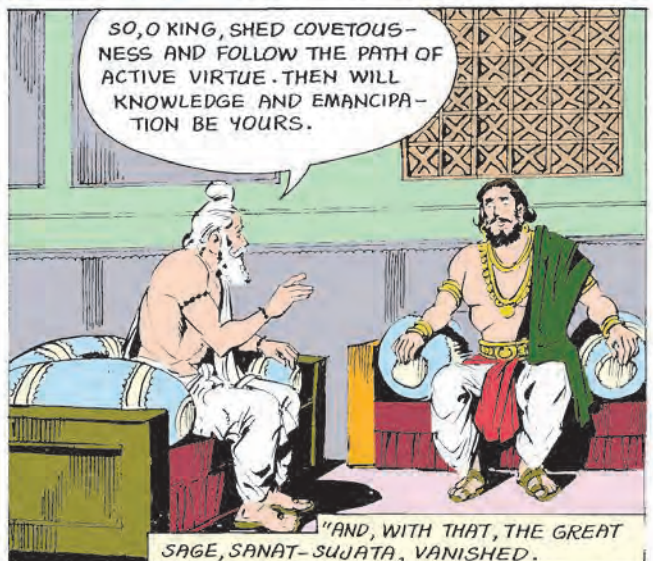
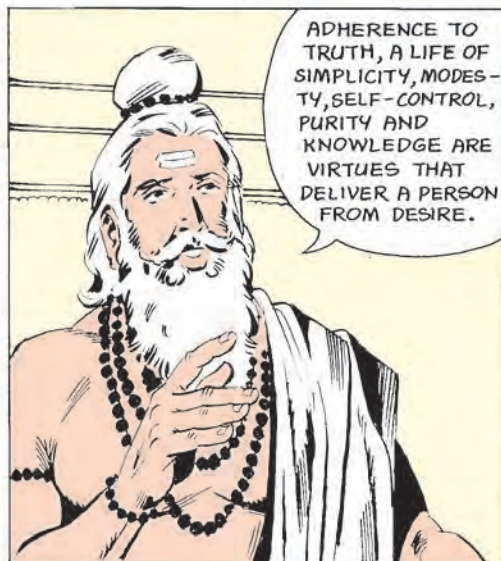
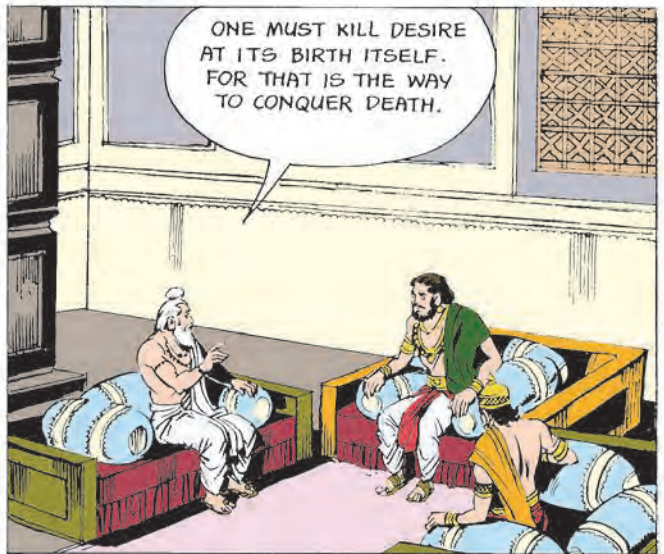
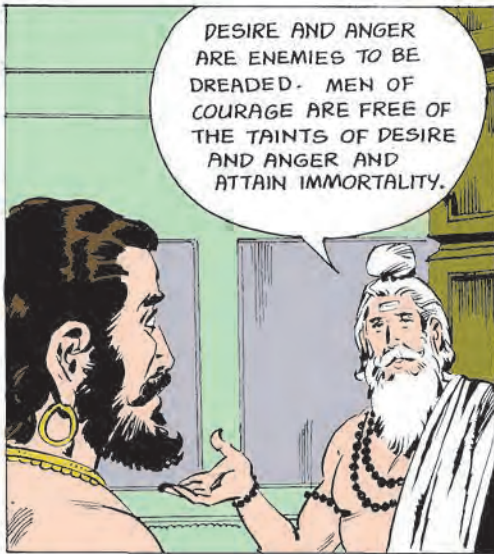
IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT YOU WILL SUCCEED IN APPROPRIATING THE PROPERTY OF THE PANDAVAS. MOREOVER, THAT WOULD ALSO BE IMPROPER.



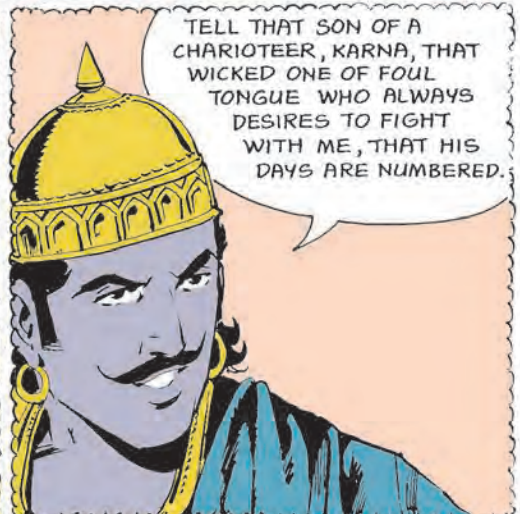
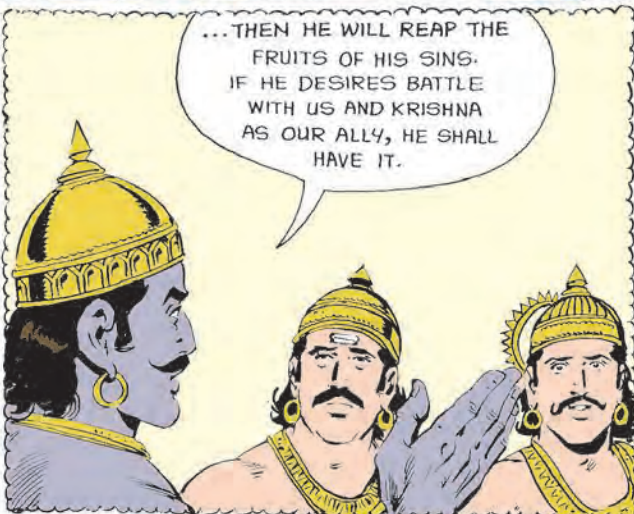


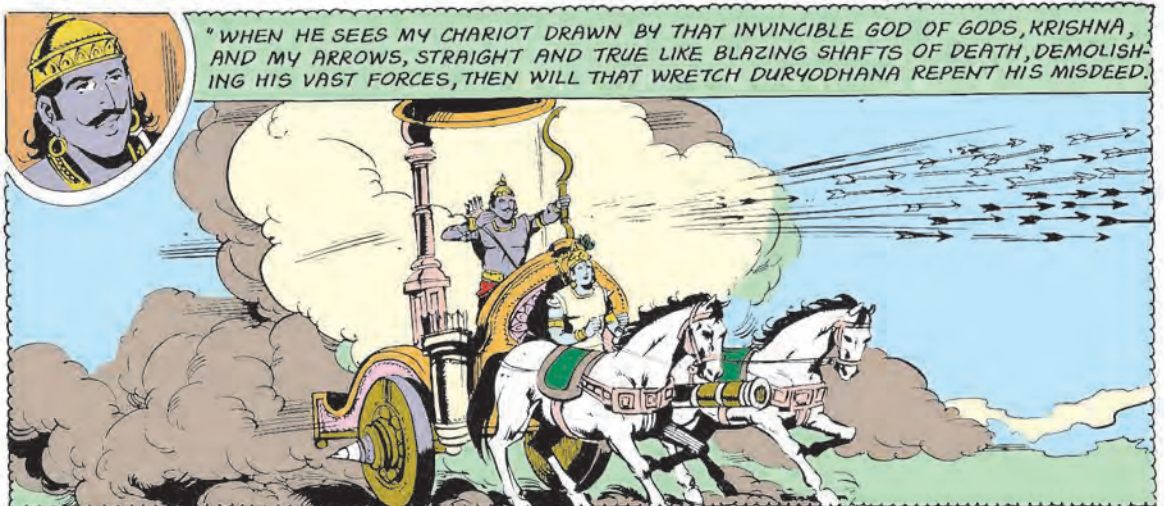
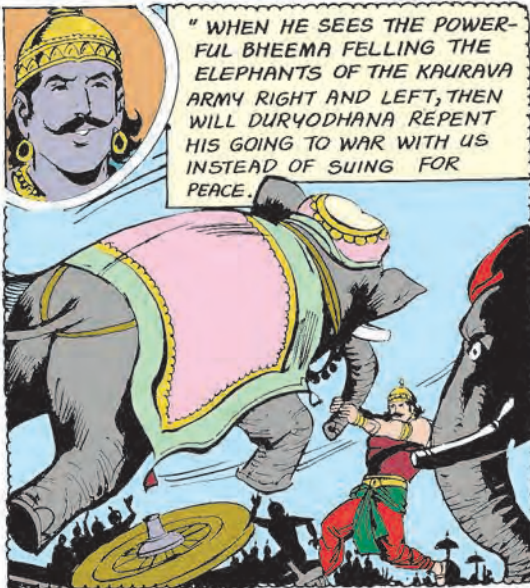






"NEXT MORNING, IN THE COURT OF DHRTARASHTRA—





"HEARING THE WORDS OF SANJAYA, BHEESHMA SAID —

KNOW, O DURYODHANA, THAT KRISHNA AND ARJUNA ARE THE INVINCIBLE NARA AND NARAYANA. IF YOU FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF KARNA, THE LOW-BORN SON OF A CHARIOTEER, AND YOUR VILE BROTHER DUSHSHASANA, YOUR KINSMEN WILL SOON PERISH.



"KARNA RETALIATED —

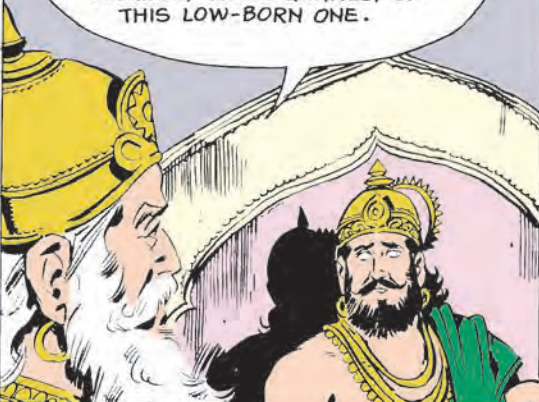
IT IS UNBECOMING OF YOU, O BLESSED GRANDSIRE, TO TALK IN THIS MANNER.



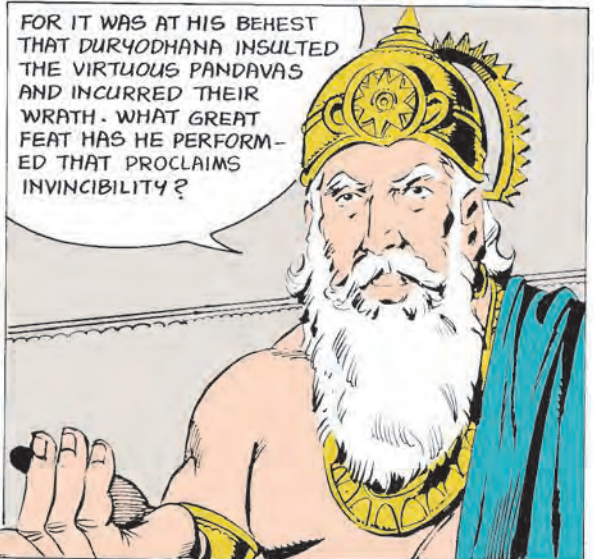
I HAVE FAITHFULLY FOLLOWED THE DHARMA OF THE WARRIOR. HOW HAVE I MISBEHAVED THAT YOU SHOULD SO REBUKE ME? THE KAURAVAS SEE NO EVIL IN ME AND I HAVE DONE THEM NO ILL.

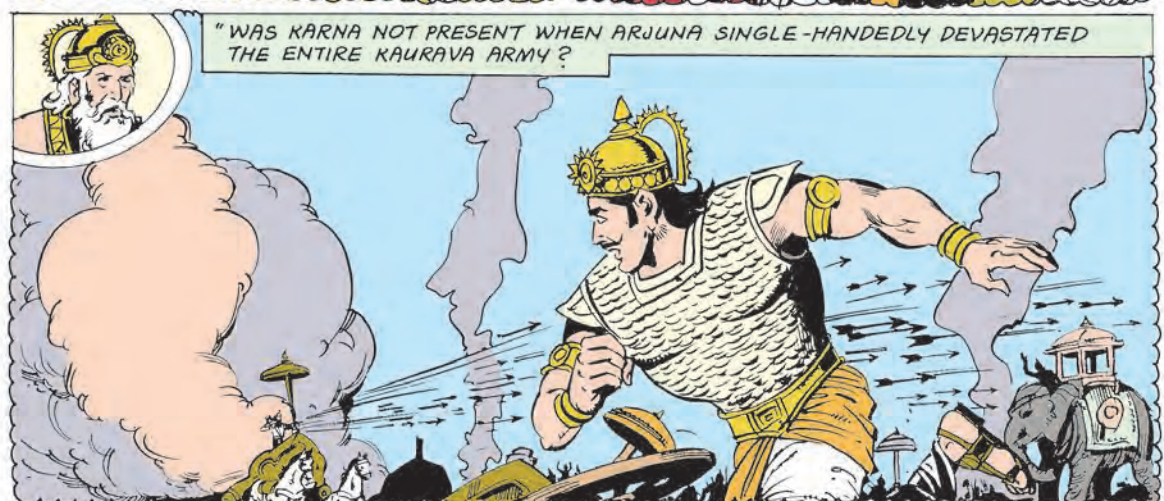
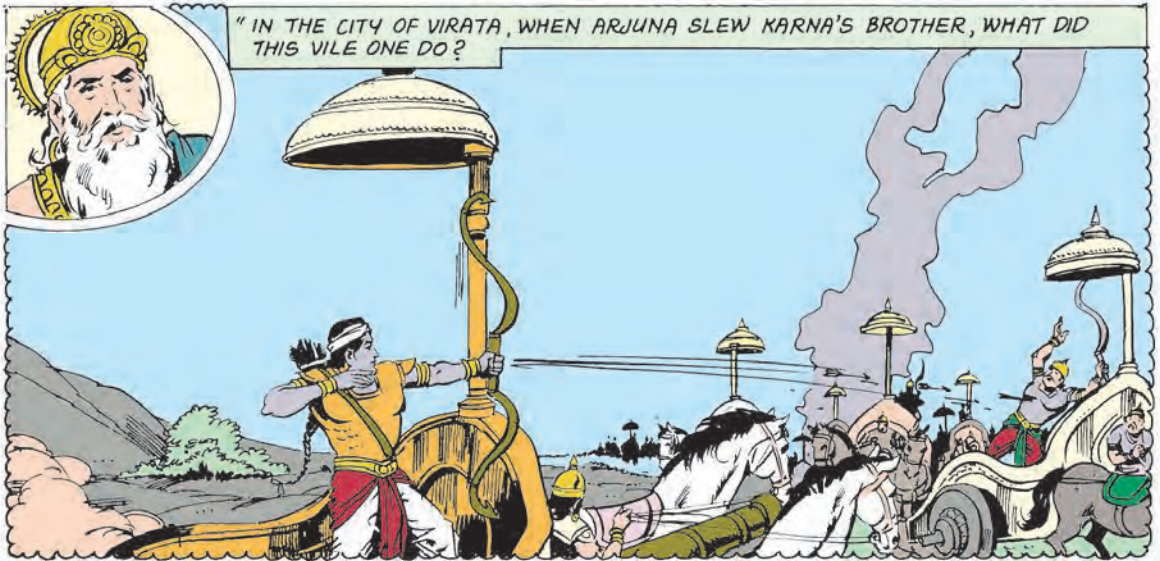


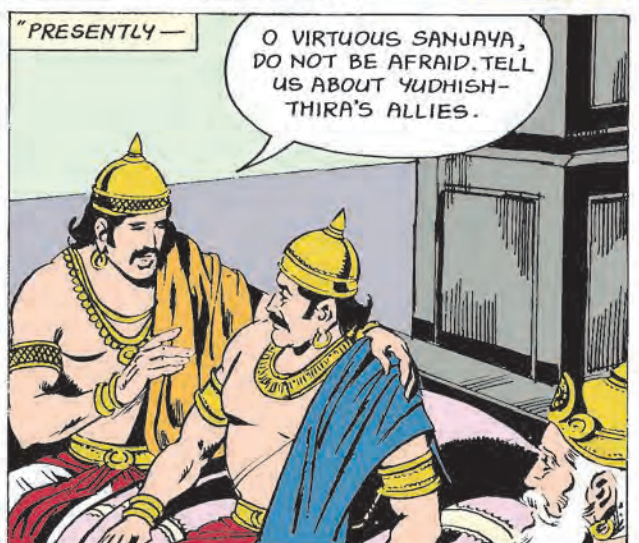
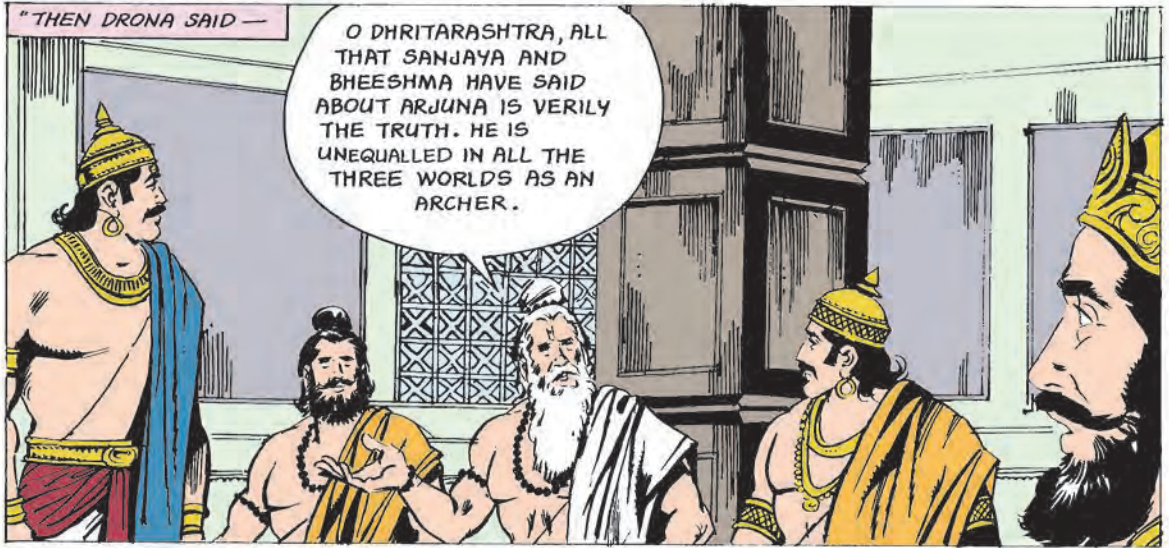
O DHRTIRASHTRA, LISTEN TO THIS BOASTFUL WRETCH. HE IS NOT EQUAL EVEN TO A SIXTEENTH PART OF THE NOBLE PANDAVAS. O KING, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENT CALAMITY LIES SQUARELY ON THIS LOW-BORN ONE.



FOR IT WAS AT HIS BEHEST THAT DURYODHANA INSULTED THE VIRTUOUS PANDAVAS AND INCURRED THEIR WRATH. WHAT GREAT FEAT HAS HE PERFORMED THAT PROCLAIMS INVINCIBILITY?

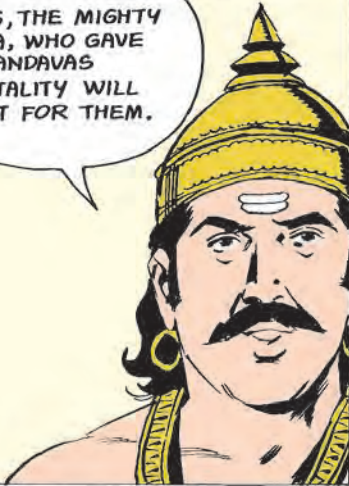






"WHEN REVIVED, SANJAYA SAID—

O KING, THE MIGHTY VIRATA, WHO GAVE THE PANDAVAS HOSPITALITY WILL FIGHT FOR THEM.



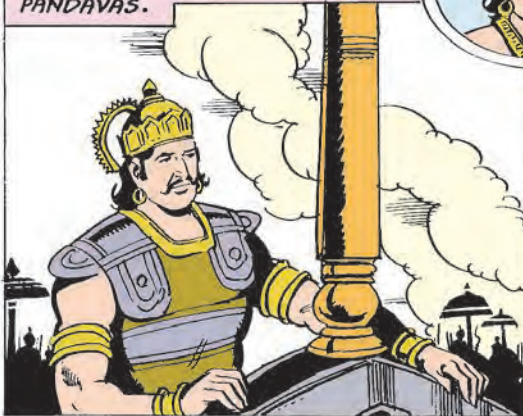
"THE POWERFUL DRUPADA, WITH HIS VAST ARMY, WILL BE ANOTHER FORMIDABLE ALLY OF YUDHISHTHIRA.



"THE DAUNTLESS PANCHALA PRINCE, SHIKHANDI, WHO WISHES TO SLAY BHEESHMA WILL FIGHT FOR THE PANDAVAS.



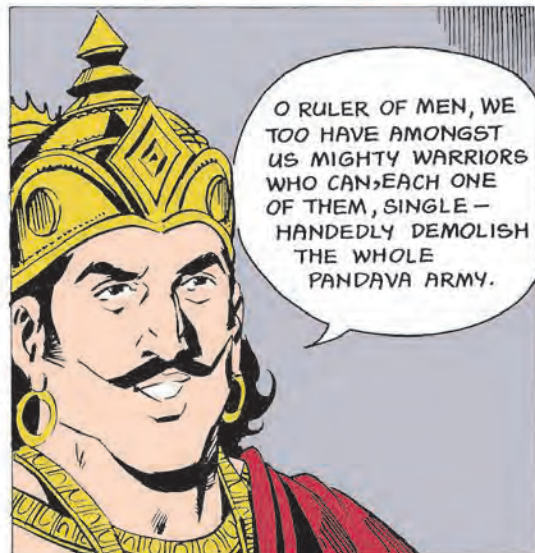
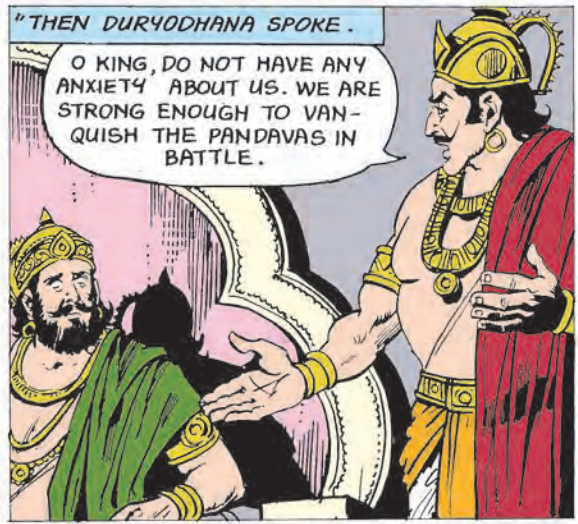
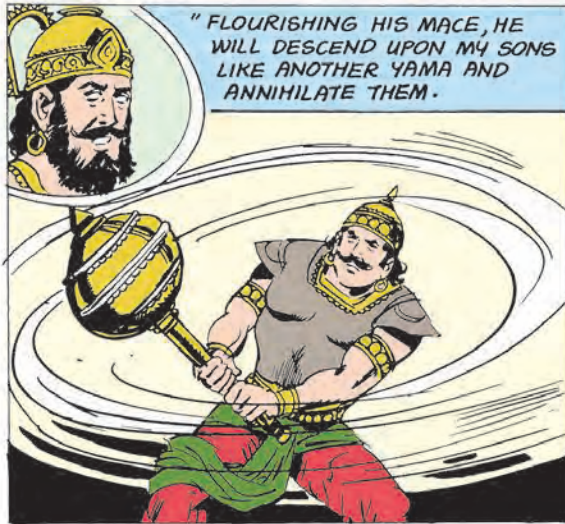
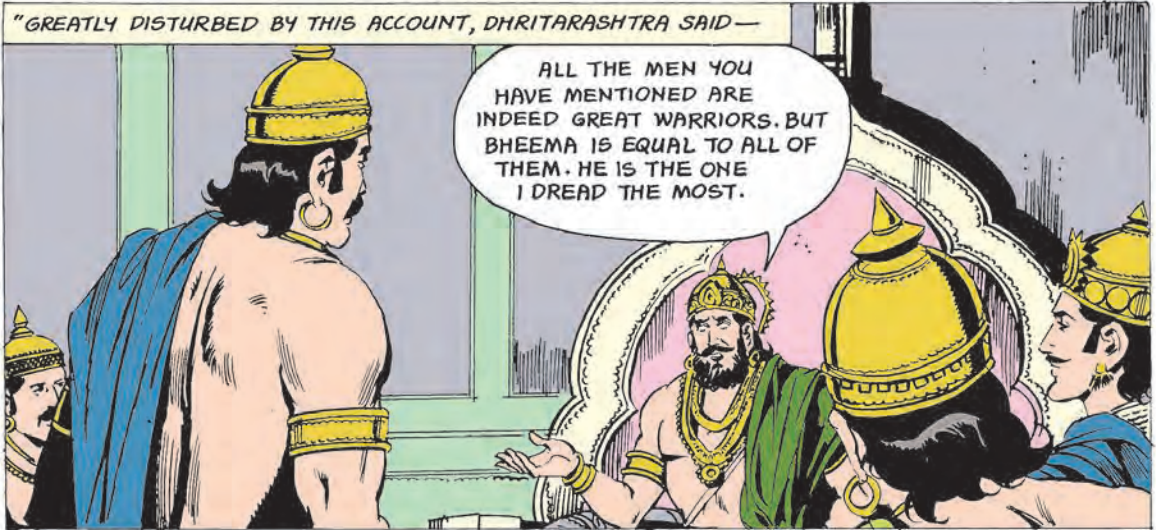
"THE LION OF THE VRISHNI RACE, YUUDHANA, WELL VERSED IN THE USE OF ALL WEAPONS, WILL STRENGTHEN THE PANDAVA FORCES.

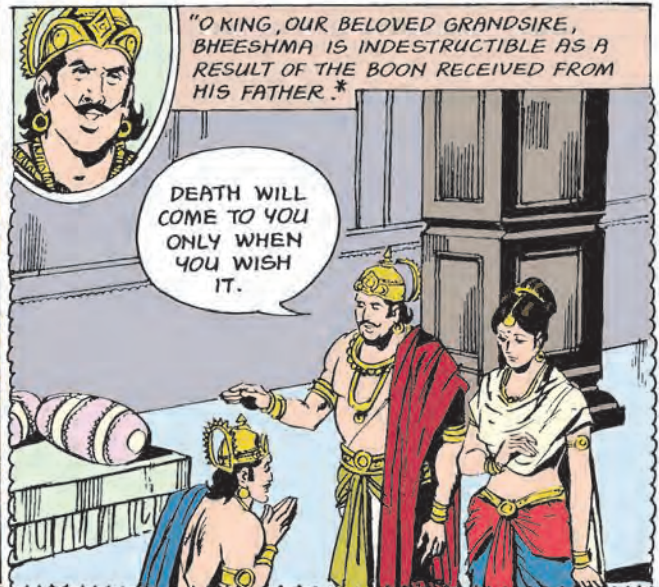
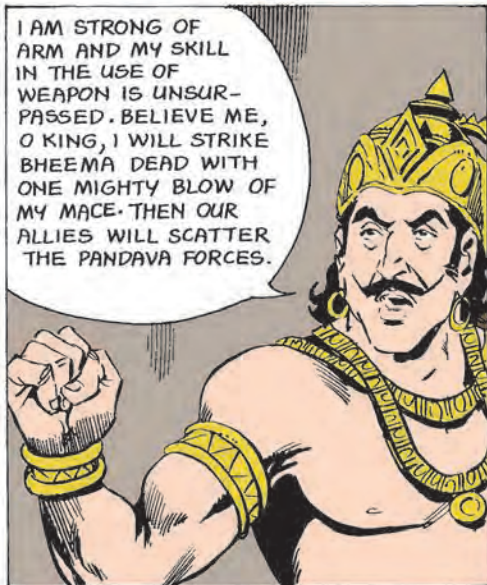
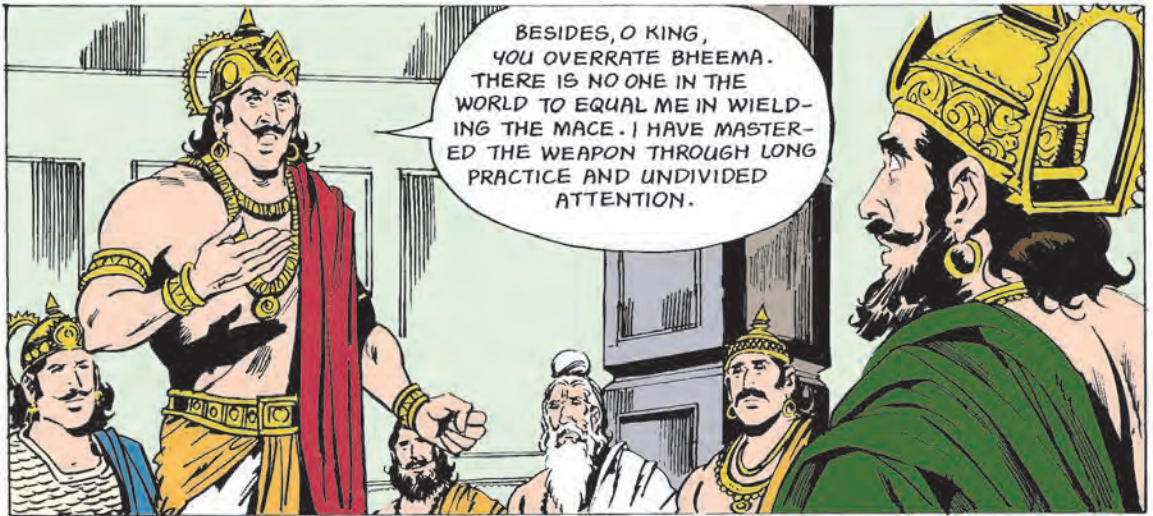


"SAHADEVA, THE MIGHTY SON OF JARASANDHA, THE INTREPID DHRISTAKETU AND THE POWERFUL KING OF THE CHEDIS WITH HIS VAST ARMY WILL FURTHER ENHANCE THE PANDAVA RANKS.



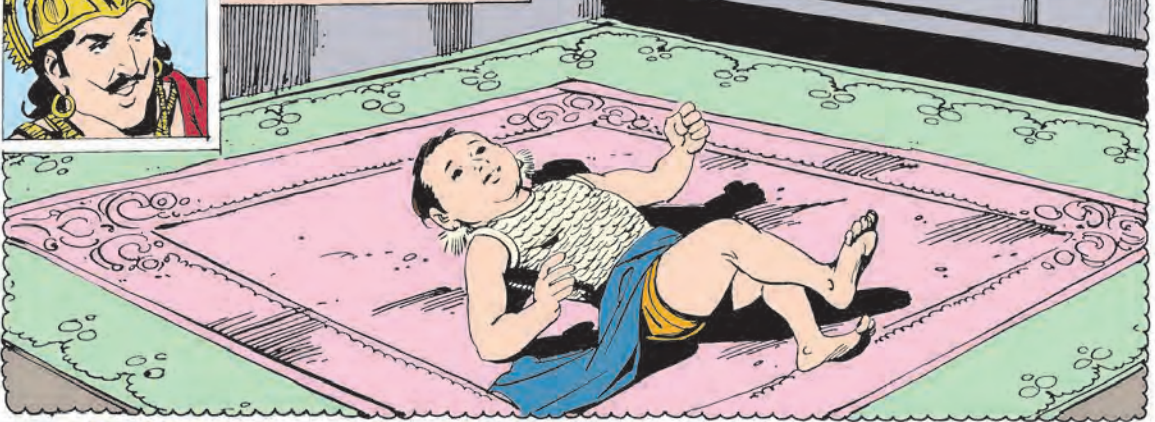
"GREATLY DISTURBED BY THIS ACCOUNT, DHRTIRASHTRA SAID —



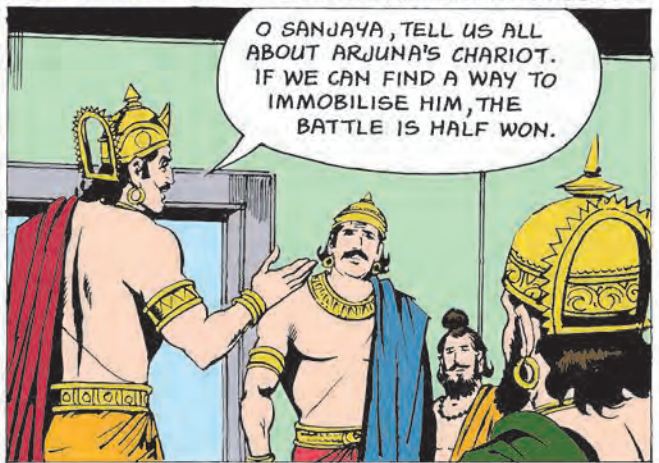




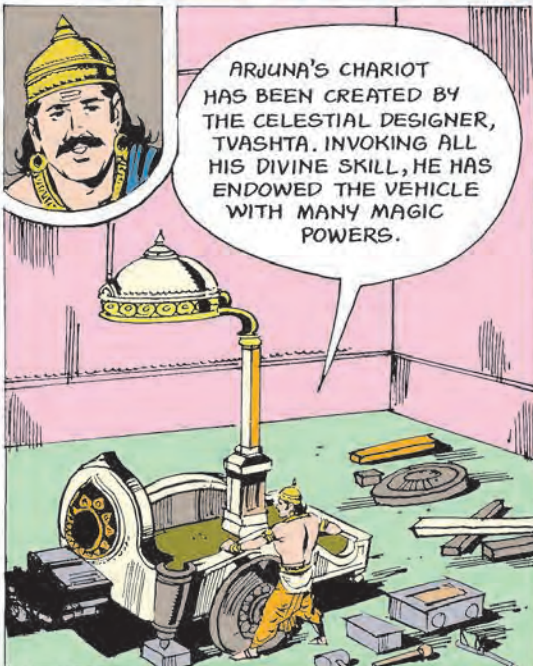
"AND KARNA WAS BORN WITH IMPENETRABLE COAT MAIL, AND HE CANNOT BE CONQUERED IN BATTLE."



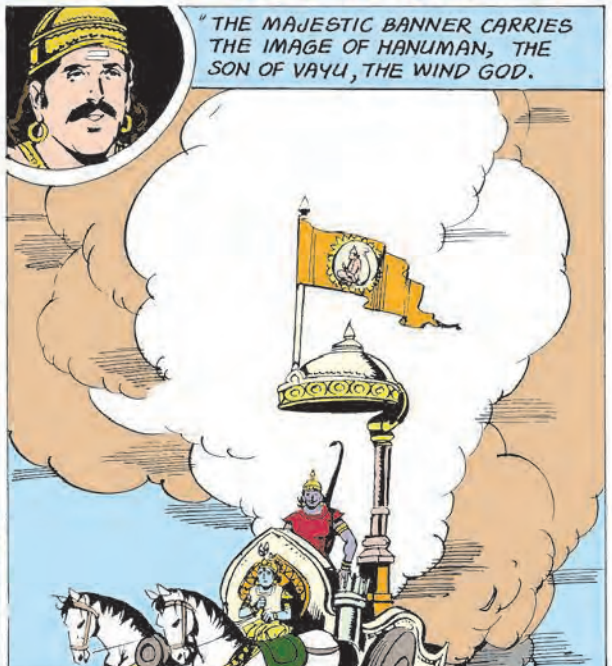
O GREAT KING,  
DO NOT LAMENT.  
VICTORY WILL  
SURELY BE  
OURS.



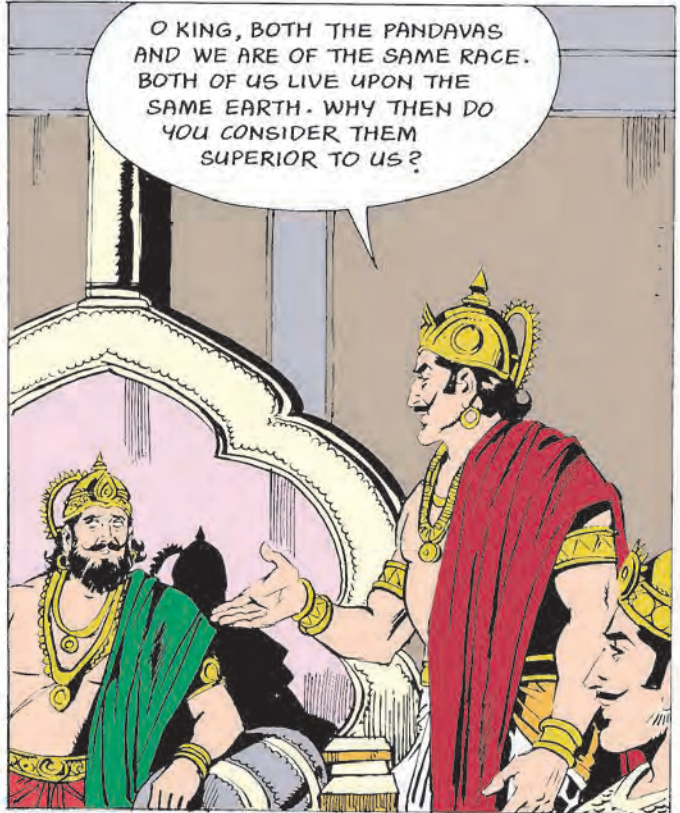
O SANJAYA, TELL US ALL  
ABOUT ARJUNA'S CHARIOT.  
IF WE CAN FIND A WAY TO  
IMMOBILISE HIM, THE  
BATTLE IS HALF WON.

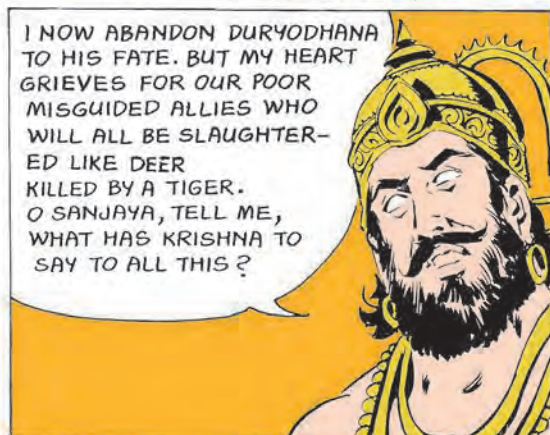
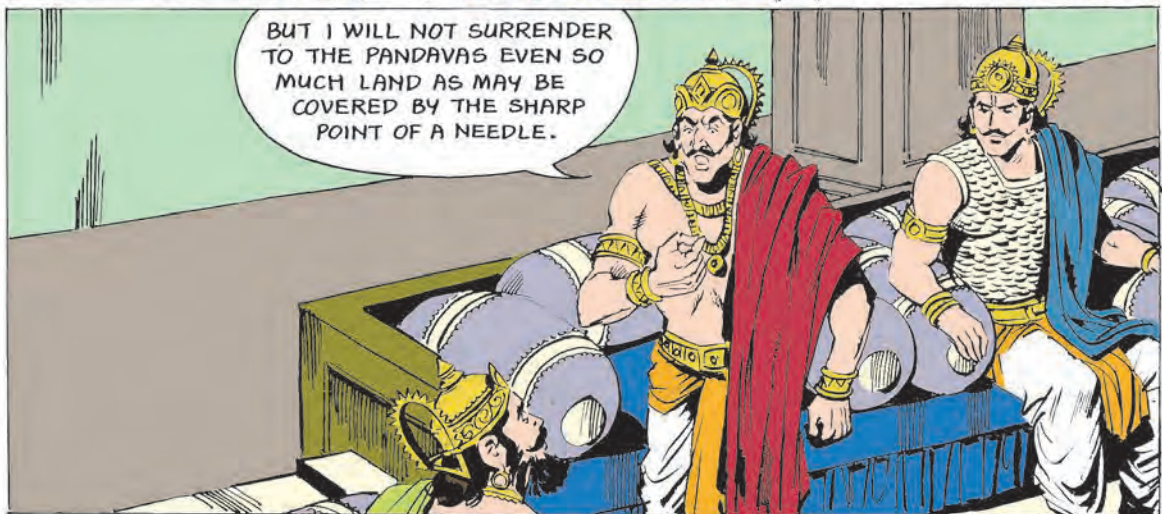
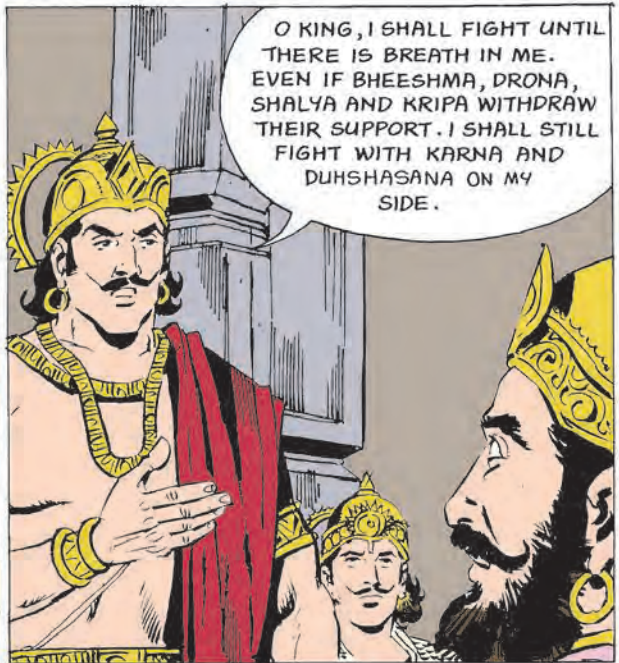


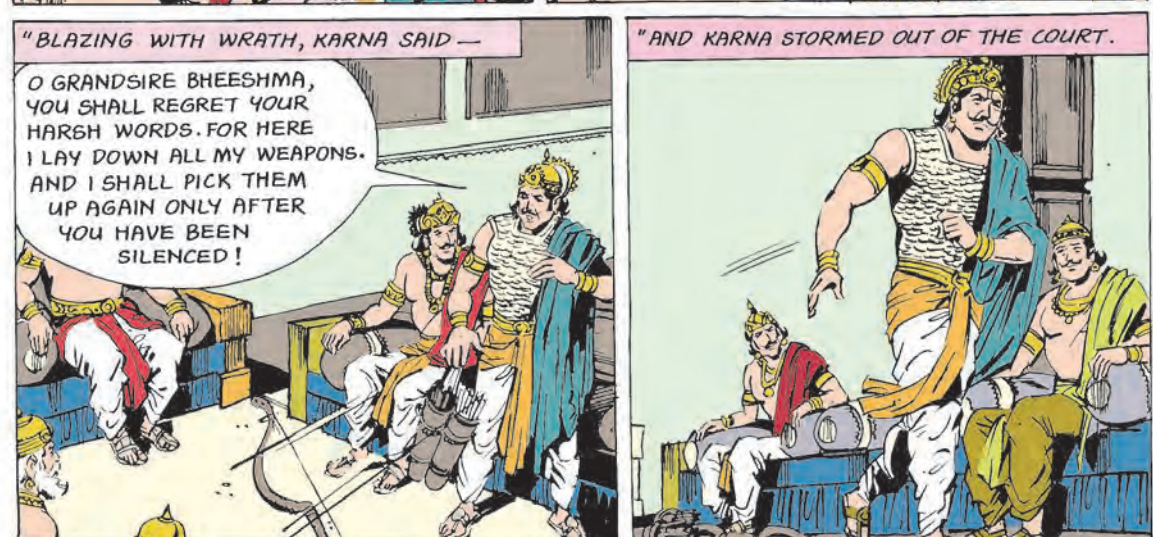
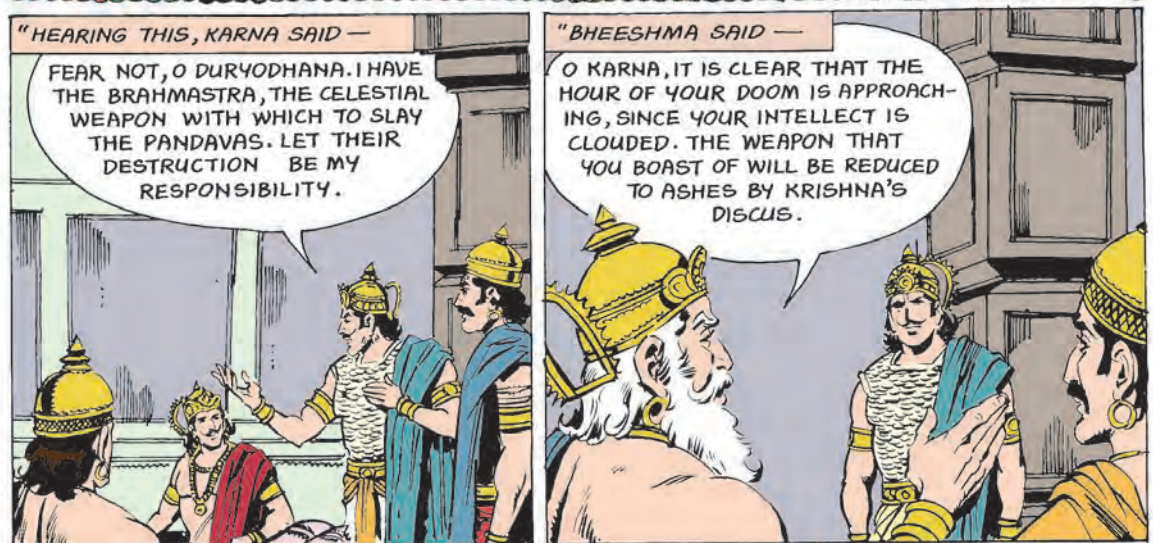
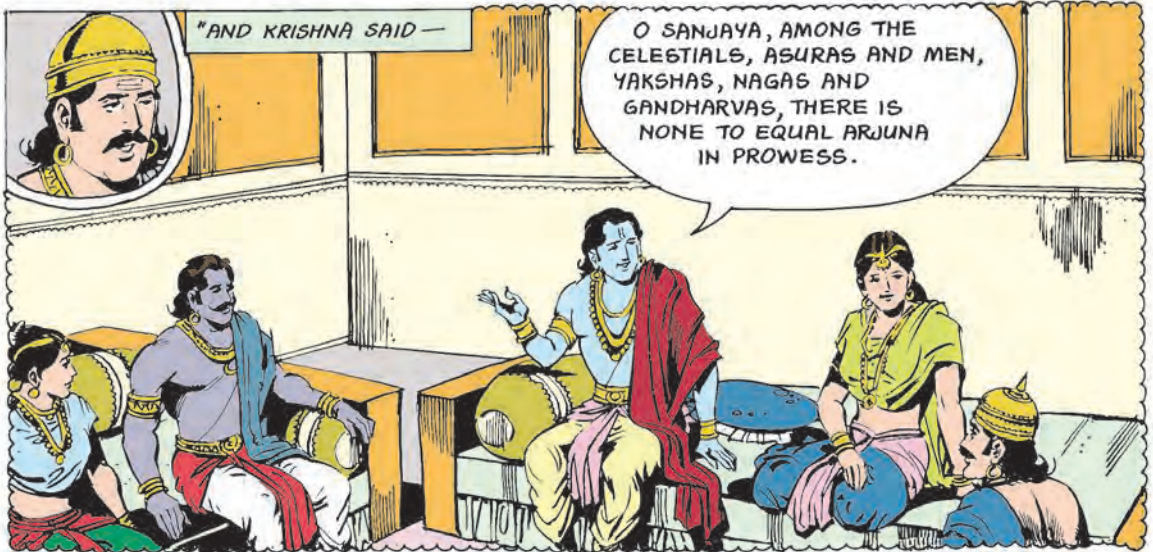
ARJUNA'S CHARIOT  
HAS BEEN CREATED BY  
THE CELESTIAL DESIGNER,  
TVASHTA. INVOKING ALL  
HIS DIVINE SKILL, HE HAS  
ENDOWED THE VEHICLE  
WITH MANY MAGIC  
POWERS.

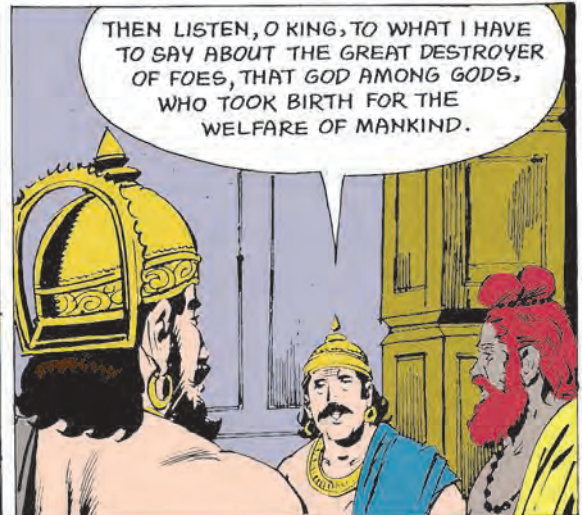
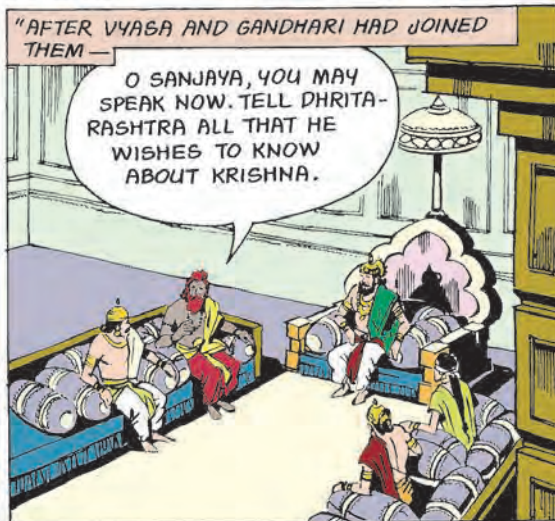
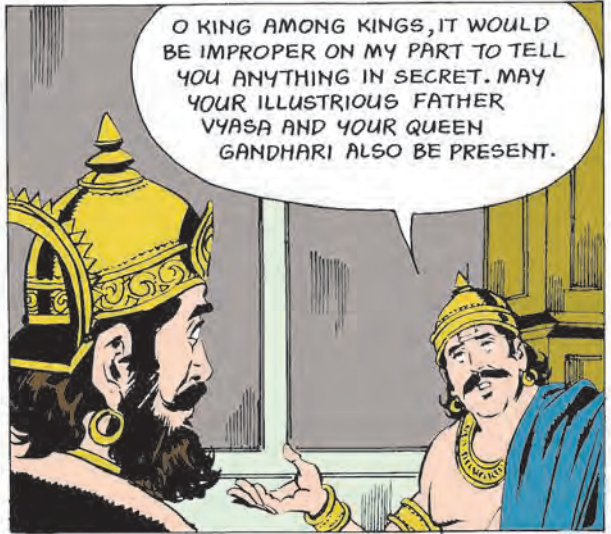
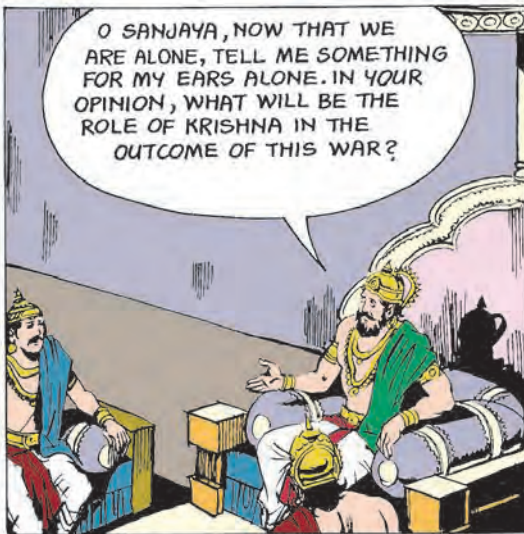
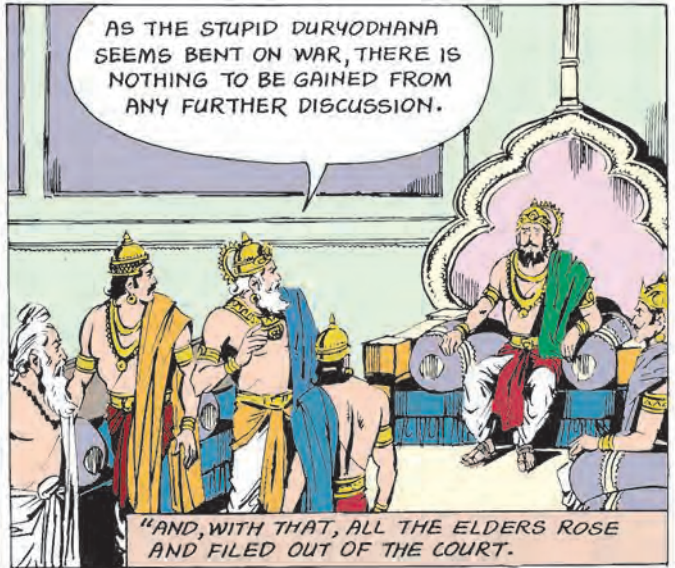
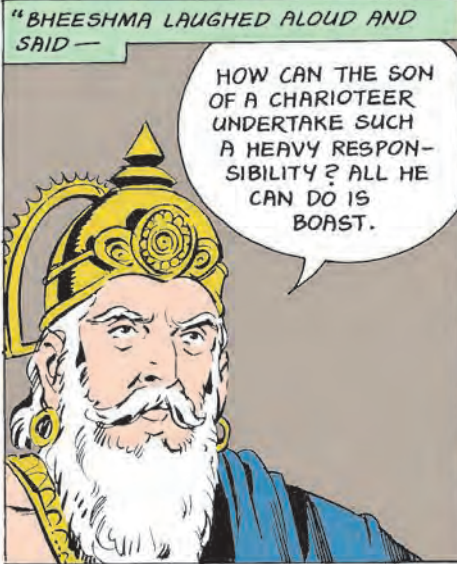


"THE MAJESTIC BANNER CARRIES  
THE IMAGE OF HANUMAN, THE  
SON OF VAYU, THE WIND GOD."











"HIS FORMIDABLE WEAPON, THE DISCUS, IS CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE MIGHTIEST OF ADVERSARIES."

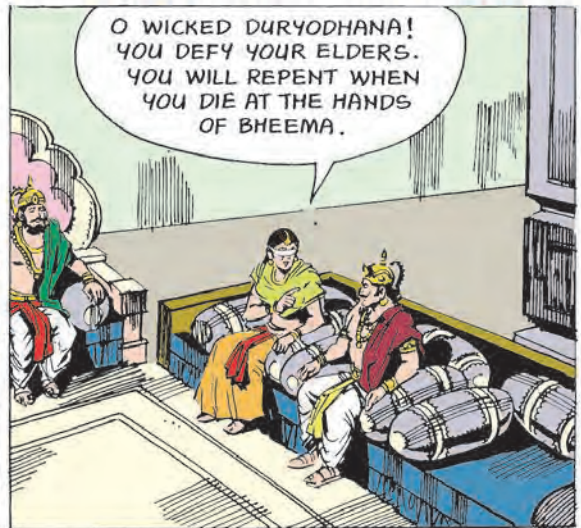
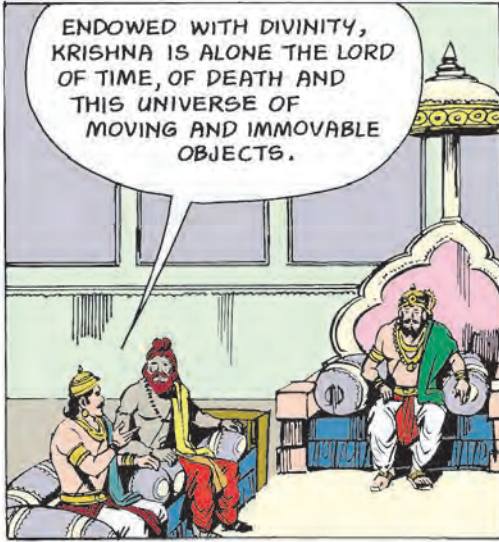


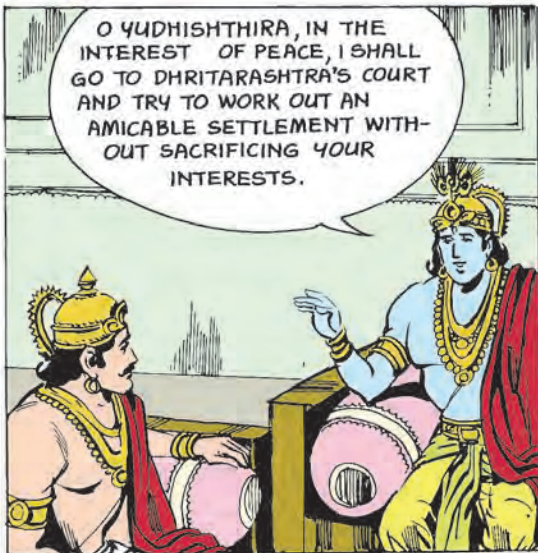
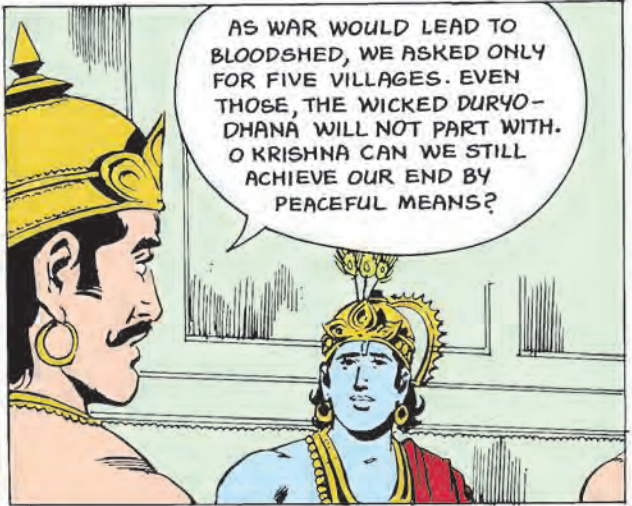
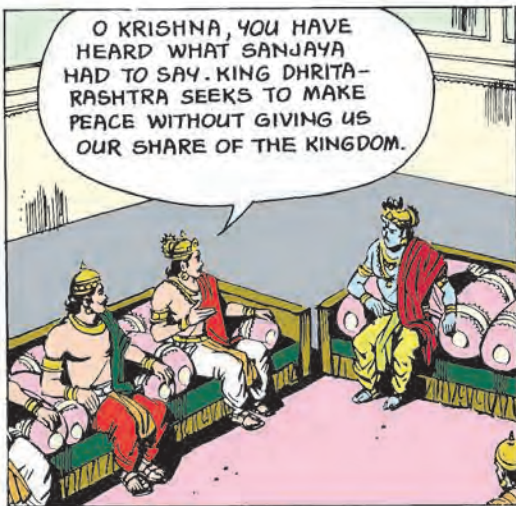
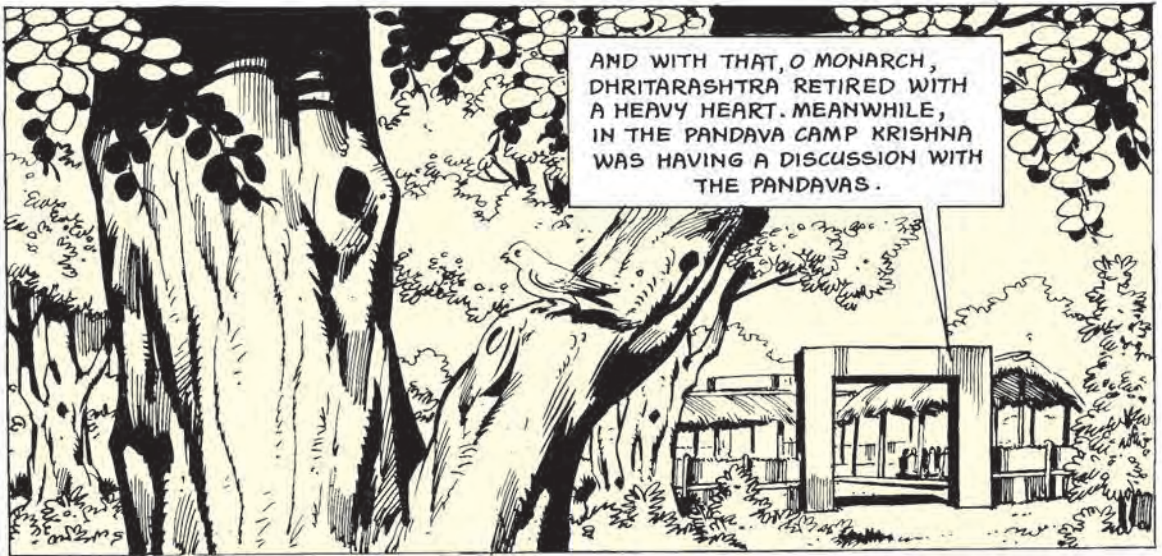
"EVEN AS A CHILD, KRISHNA SLEW THE EVIL AND MIGHTY KAMSA."

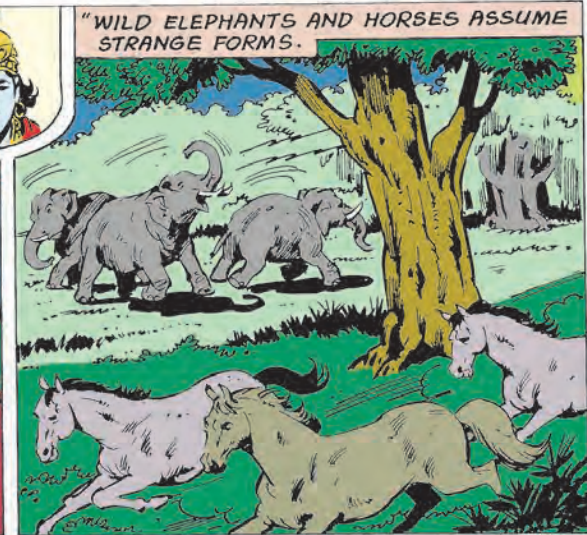
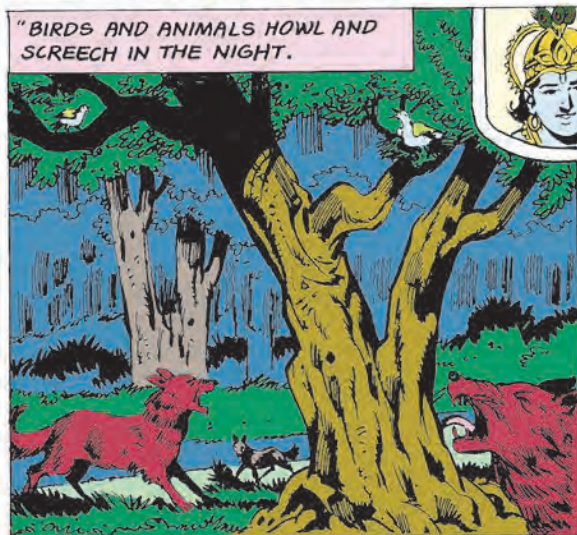
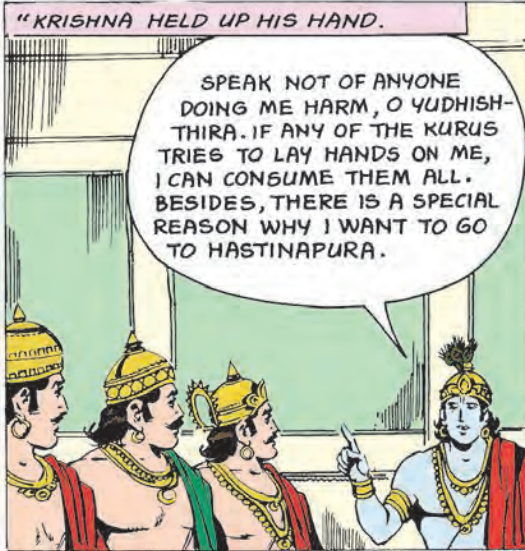


"IT IS KRISHNA WHO CAUSES THE WHEEL OF TIME, THE WHEEL OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE WHEEL OF THE YUGA TO ROTATE CEASELESSLY. HE HAS NEITHER A BEGINNING NOR AN END. HE IS EVERYTHING AND NOTHING."



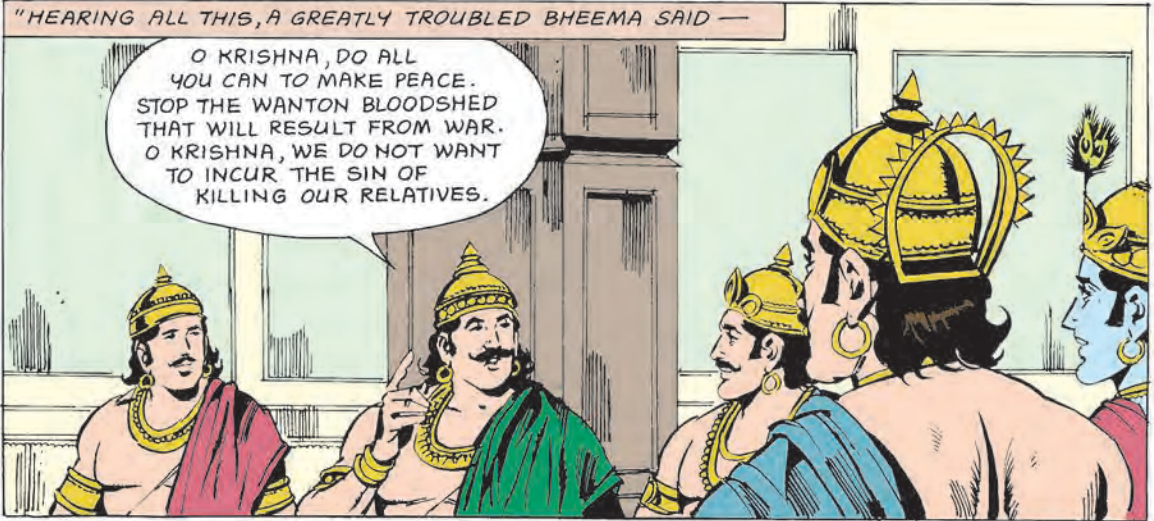






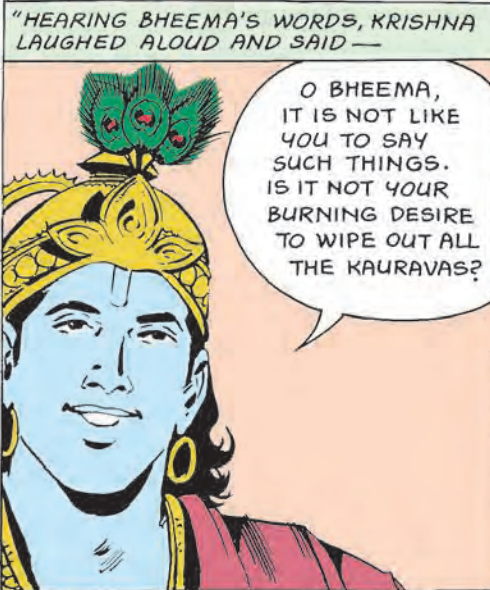
"HEARING ALL THIS, A GREATLY TROUBLED BHEEMA SAID —

O KRISHNA, DO ALL  
YOU CAN TO MAKE PEACE.  
STOP THE WANTON BLOODSHED  
THAT WILL RESULT FROM WAR.  
O KRISHNA, WE DO NOT WANT  
TO INCUR THE SIN OF  
KILLING OUR RELATIVES.



"HEARING BHEEMA'S WORDS, KRISHNA  
LAUGHED ALOUD AND SAID —

O BHEEMA,  
IT IS NOT LIKE  
YOU TO SAY  
SUCH THINGS.  
IS IT NOT YOUR  
BURNING DESIRE  
TO WIPE OUT ALL  
THE KAURAVAS?

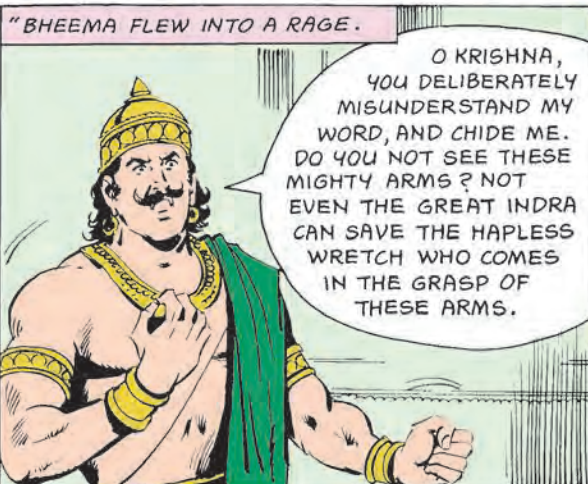


THEN WHY DO YOU  
BECOME WEAK-HEARTED  
ALL OF A SUDDEN? ARE  
YOU OVERCOME WITH  
FEAR NOW THAT WAR  
IS IMMINENT?

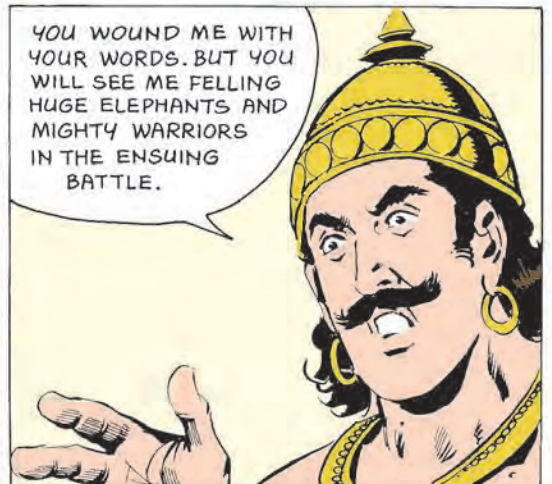


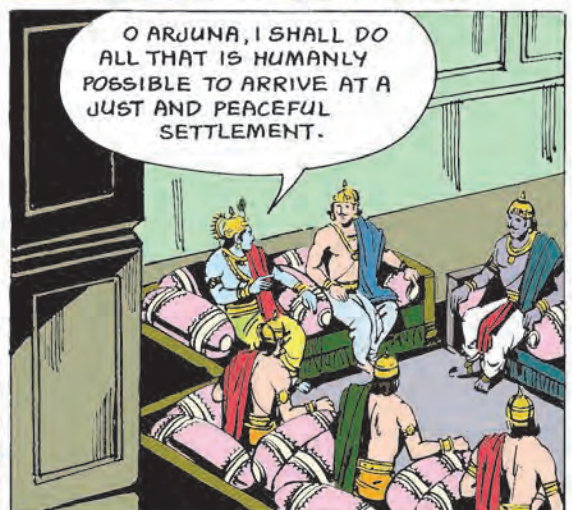
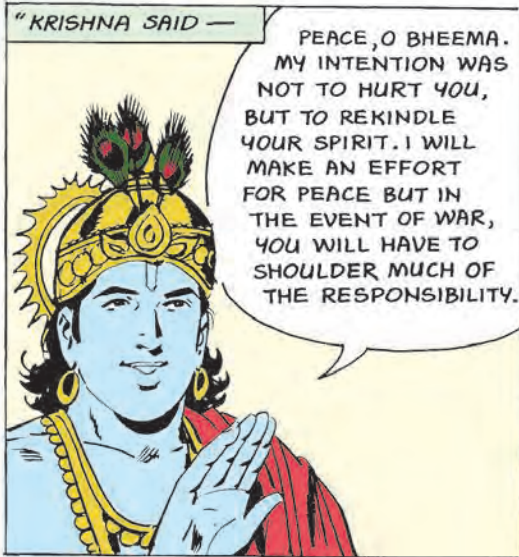
"BHEEMA FLEW INTO A RAGE.

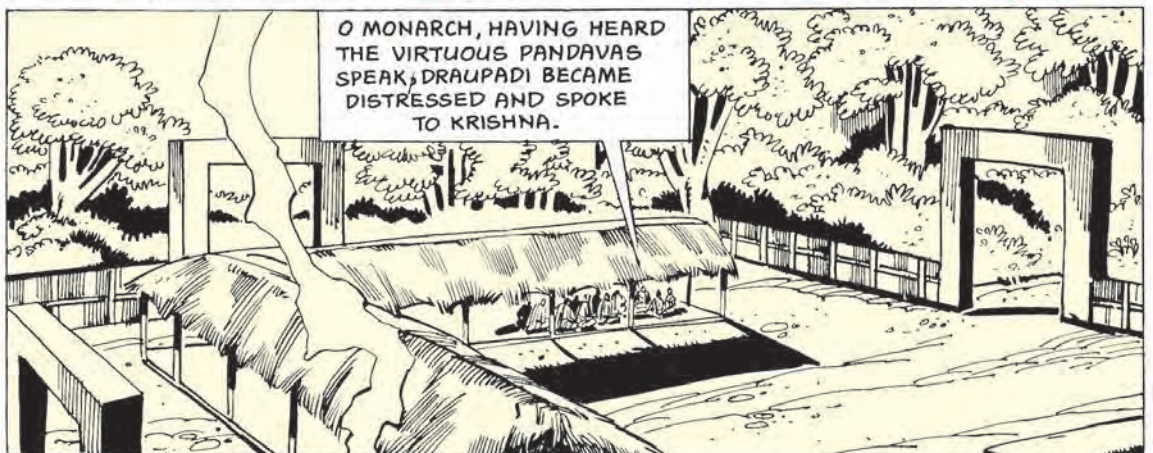
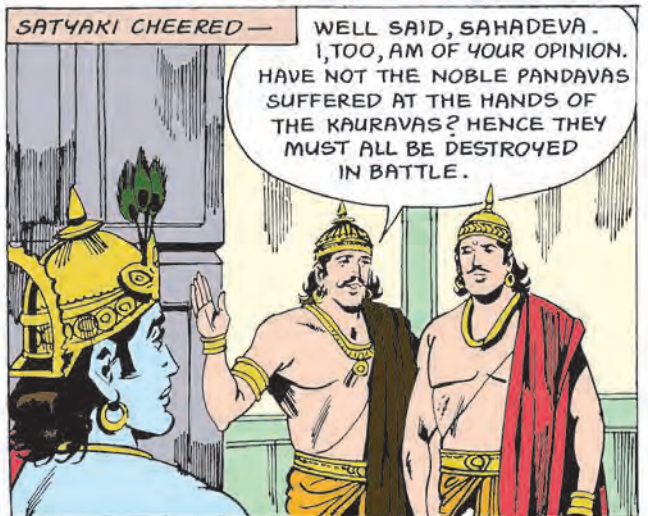
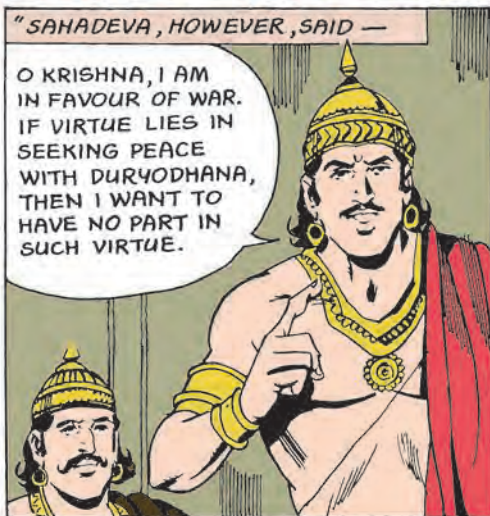
O KRISHNA,  
YOU DELIBERATELY  
MISUNDERSTAND MY  
WORD, AND CHIDE ME.  
DO YOU NOT SEE THESE  
MIGHTY ARMS? NOT  
EVEN THE GREAT INDRA  
CAN SAVE THE HAPLESS  
WRETCH WHO COMES  
IN THE GRASP OF  
THESE ARMS.



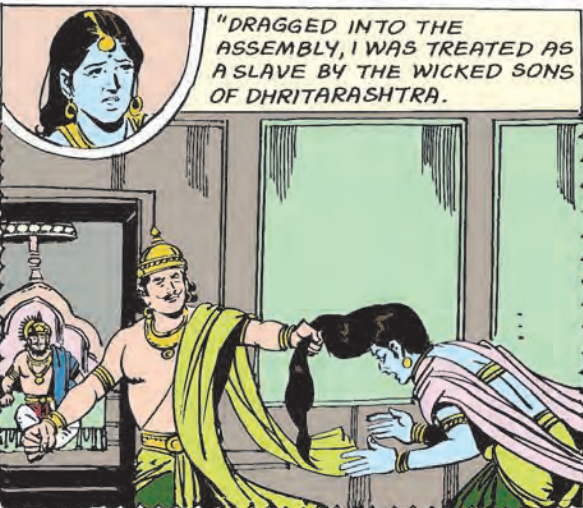
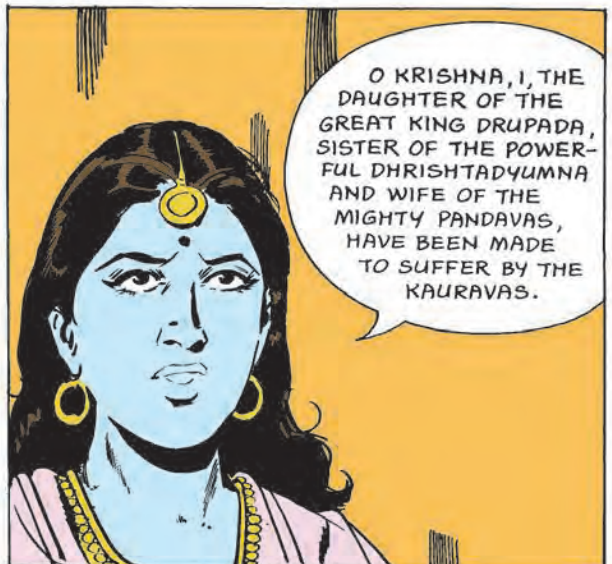
YOU WOUND ME WITH  
YOUR WORDS. BUT YOU  
WILL SEE ME FELLING  
HUGE ELEPHANTS AND  
MIGHTY WARRIORS  
IN THE ENSUING  
BATTLE.





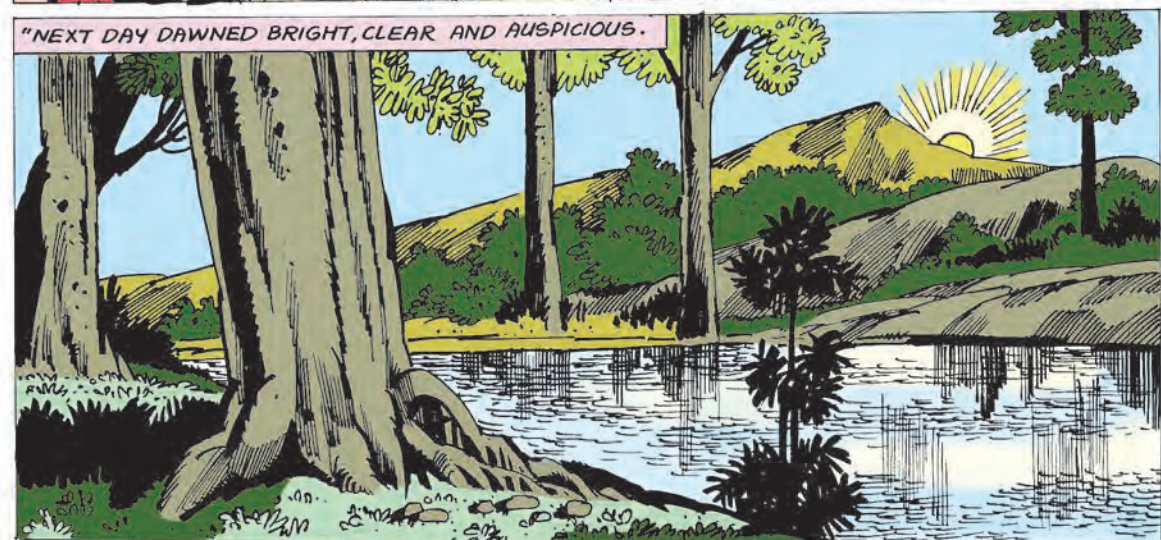


"DRAUPADI SAID —



"HER VOICE QUIVERED AS SHE SPOKE —





"RISING EARLY, KRISHNA WORSHIPPED THE SUN AND THE HOLY FIRE.

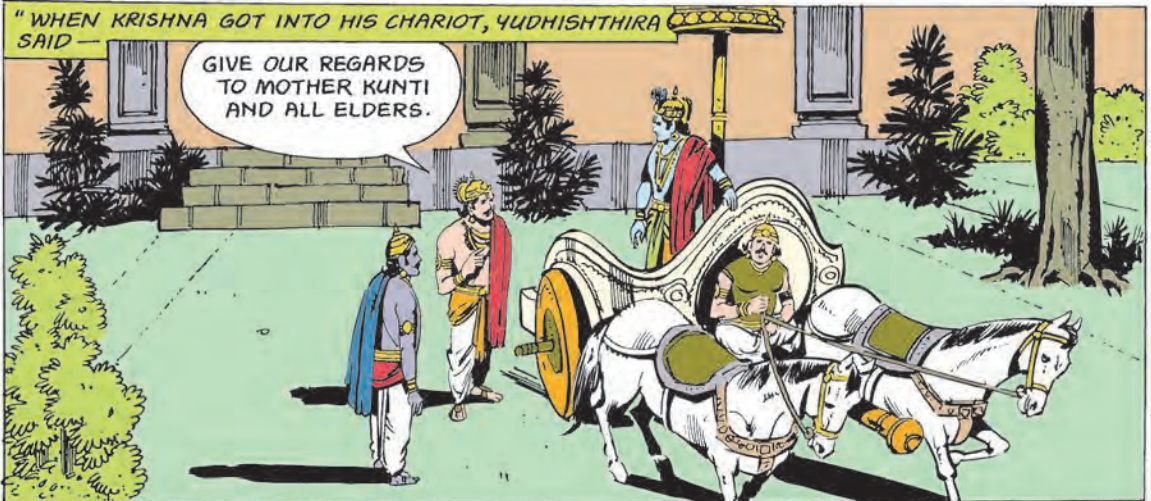


"THEN CALLING SATYAKI, HE SAID —



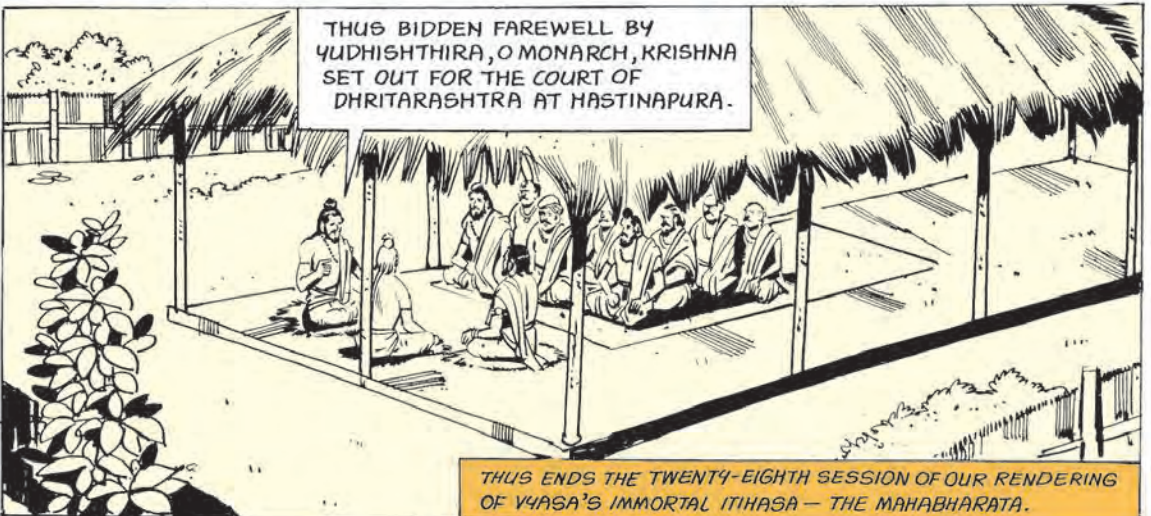
LET MY CHARIOT BE PREPARED FOR THE JOURNEY AND LET ALL MY WEAPONS BE PLACED ON IT. I DO NOT TRUST DURYODHANA OR HIS BROTHERS.

"WHEN KRISHNA GOT INTO HIS CHARIOT, YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —



GIVE OUR REGARDS TO MOTHER KUNTI AND ALL ELDERS.

THUS BIDDEN FAREWELL BY YUDHISHTHIRA, O MONARCH, KRISHNA SET OUT FOR THE COURT OF DHRTARASHTRA AT HASTINAPURA.



THIS ENDS THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VYASA'S IMMORTAL ITIHASA — THE MAHABHARATA.